DRAGON
REX
6
KAIRI
FUJIYAMA

While pondering what to write in my opening note, I was looking over my illustration for the cover. And then I saw it: a big mistake! I've just gotta get it fixed right away...but can I fix it in time!!?

Oh, no, I've completely forgotten what I was going to write!

—Kairi Fujiyama

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

Story of DRAGON EYE

龍眼物語

It has been several decades since the D Virus, whose infected victims transform into murderous monsters known as Dracules, spread across the world. The human population plummeted severely and the world was approaching a crisis point....Those who emerged to protect people from the Dracules came to be called the VIUS.

VIUS Squad Zero Captain Issa had, on a previous mission, gone to Yukimura's house on a Dracule hunt. It is said that Issa mistakenly killed Yukimura's twin sister, Futaba, that day. Yukimura became a VIUS in order to avenge his sister, and challenged Issa to a duel! With Issa wounded, their strength is just about equal. The death match between the two is about to begin!!

Issa Kazuma

Squad Zero captain. Seems lackadaisical, but possesses a Dragon Eye and wields the broadsword Diamond Sacred Steel. Is said to have killed Yukimura's sister during a mission six years ago, but...?

Sosei Yukimura

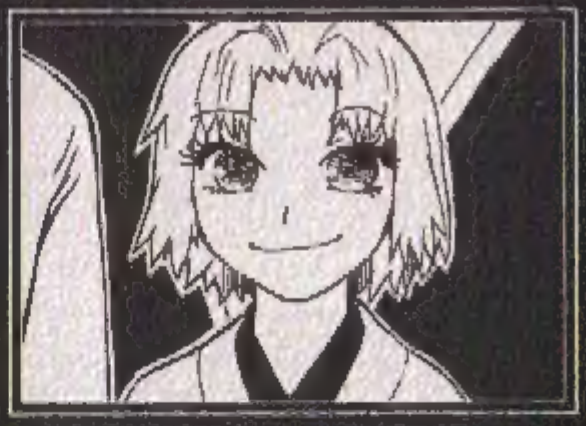
A former Squad Five member currently on temporary reassignment to Squad Zero. Believes Issa killed his twin sister - and so he wields twin blades in her memory and secretly plots for vengeance.

Futaba

Sosei's twin sister. Having lost both parents, they grew up together and were very close. A sickly but strong-hearted, courageous young girl.

Hyûga

Assigned to the Intelligence Corps. Idolizes Issa because his first mission was with Issa's squad. Supposedly likes Mikuni's pop star NATSUMI ★ chan.



Leila Mikami

Newly inducted VIUS member. When she was little, both her parents were killed by Draculeo, and she alone survived. Her weapon of choice is the *katana* blade, and she is a student of the Shimon School Sacred Blade.

Shizue Aoi

Squad Six captain, said to be Mikuni's number one beauty—everyone gets a crush on her at least once. Because Squad Six is a covert ops unit, is good at undercover investigations.

Sakuraba Shun'ichi

Captain of Squad One, and a good friend of Issa's. Lost one arm in the past, so now seems to be devoted to administrative duties, but is said to be the strongest among all Mikuni VIUS.

Mystery Man

A man who is trying to get Issa exiled from Mikuni by setting Hibiki on him. The reason he hates Issa so much is still a mystery.

Masamune Hibiki

Squad Six member. A young but brilliant and talented warrior. Seems to hold enmity toward Issa, but not for the usual reasons...

Mission ⓘ Sixteen
It's No Big Deal!!
5

Mission ⓘ Seventeen
Fight!!
57

Mission ⓘ Eighteen
Formalities
97

Mission ⓘ Nineteen
I Haven't Heard Anything About Becoming Captain Delegate!
149

Extras
190

Draw your blade, Kazuma.
This isn't a drill or a match.
It's a duel...
...until one of us goes down...

Mission ◊ Sixteen

It's No Big Deal!!

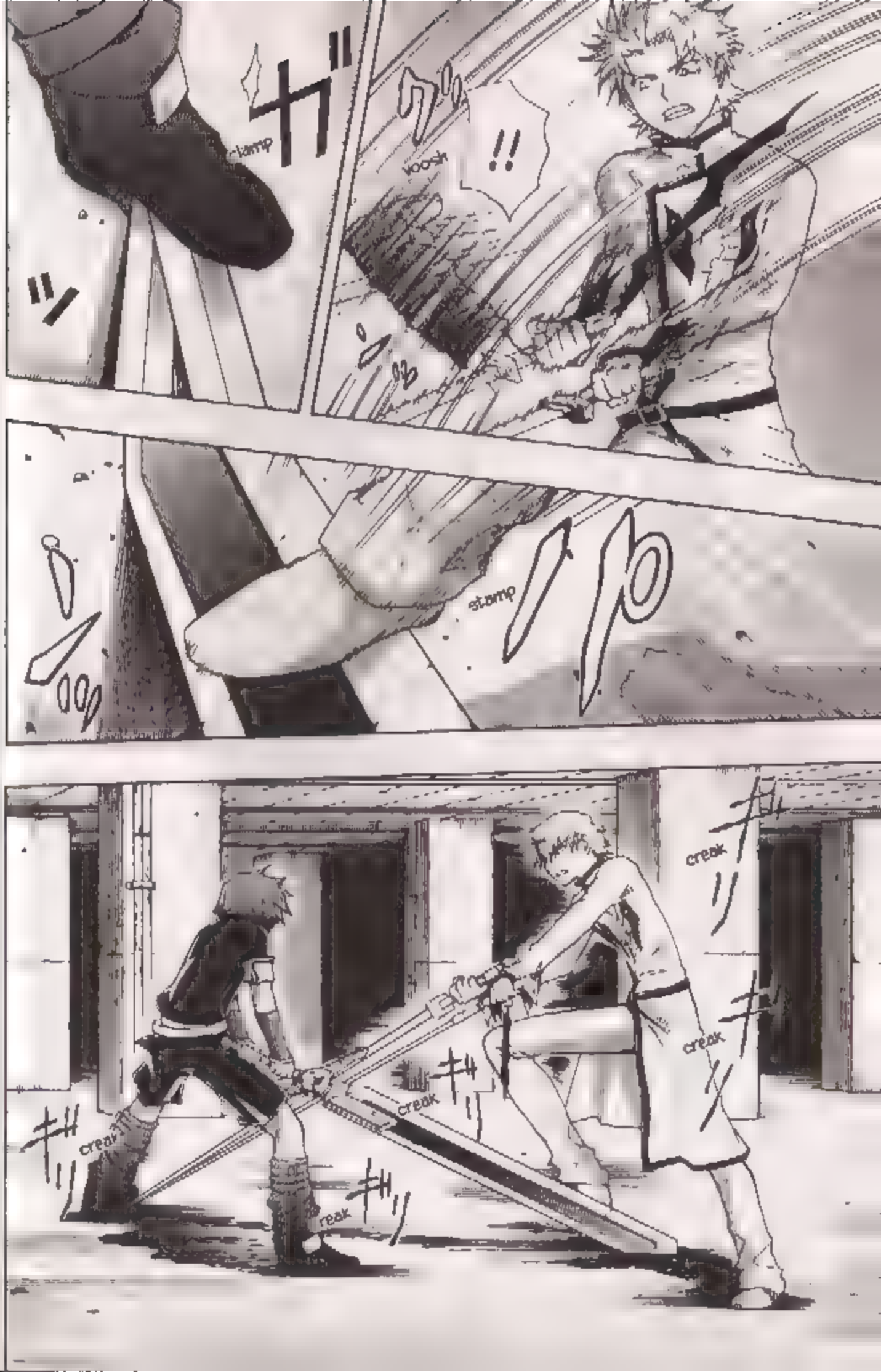
...or gets hacked up!!

clench
You want to duel before our mission, eh?
You do know that random sparring with one's captain is strictly forbidden?
And furthermore, any contest involving actual blades
within HQ is prohibited.
klak

spring
If we're found out, you'll not only be severely punished...
crouch
!!
rush

krakk
kkshing
g-g-g-g?

SWISH
DUCK
WHOOSH
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP

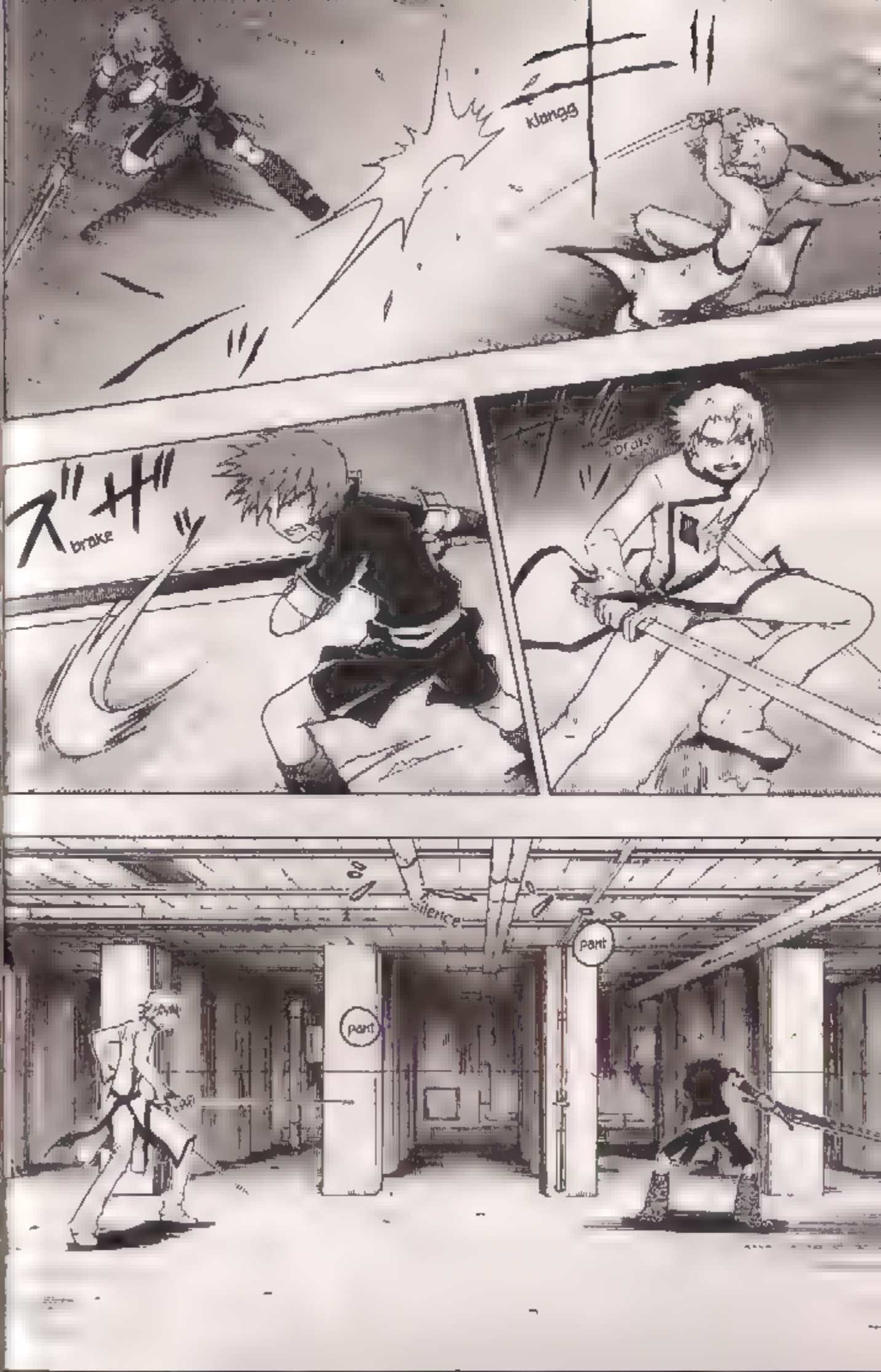

stomp
woosh
!!
stomp
creak
creak
creak
creak
creak

wrench
yank
Well, it looks like you know it may not end at just heavy punishment.
twirl
krik
krik
leap

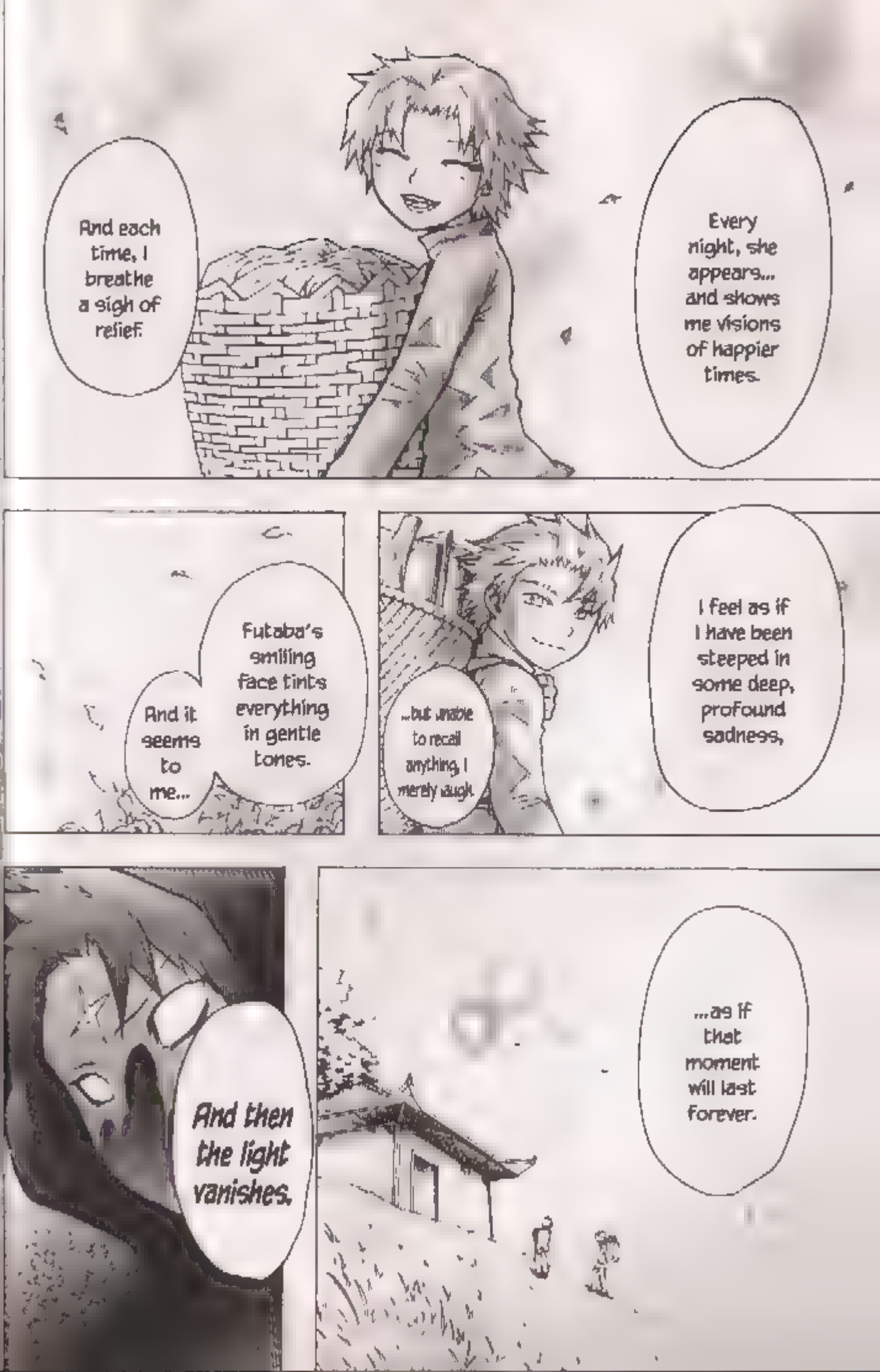
swoosh
whoosh
No room... for negotiating... eh!!
klang
klank
whiz
whiz
Fight at full strength, Kazuma!!
If you don't come at me with the intent to kill, I'll kill you First!!

...we will settle things...
Today...
...once and for all!!

roar
strike
strike
strike
strike


klangg
brake
silence
pant
pant

pant
pant
I thought you wanted to know the truth?
What about our deal?
I see Futaba.
I see her... in my dreams.
...My twin sister.
You killed her.
pant
Futaba!"


And each time, I breathe a sigh of relief.
Every night, she appears... and shows me visions of happier times.
And it seems to me...
Futaba's smiling face tints everything in gentle tones.
...but unable to recall anything, I merely laugh.
I feel as if I have been steeped in some deep, profound sadness,
And then the light vanishes.
...as if that moment will last forever.

As if Futaba is warning me...
...to never forget.

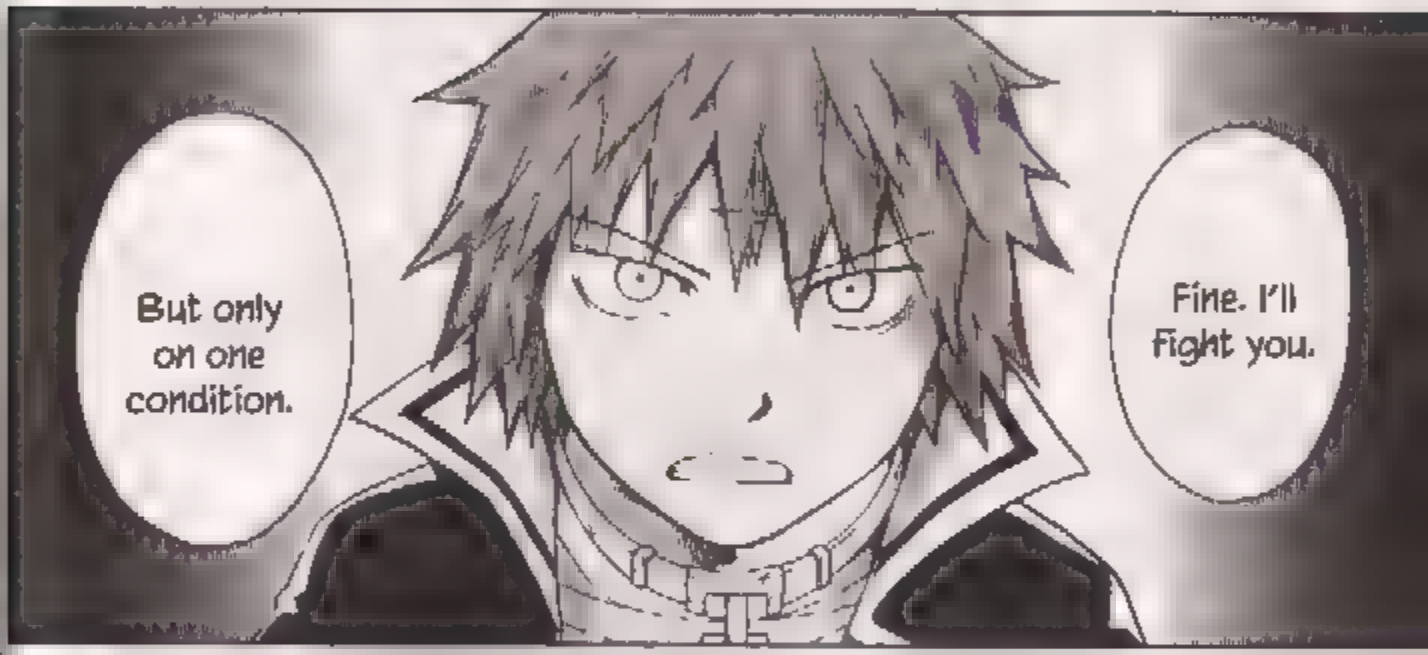
Kazuma, maybe you're not a bad guy.
Maybe...
...it was a once-in-a-lifetime blunder.

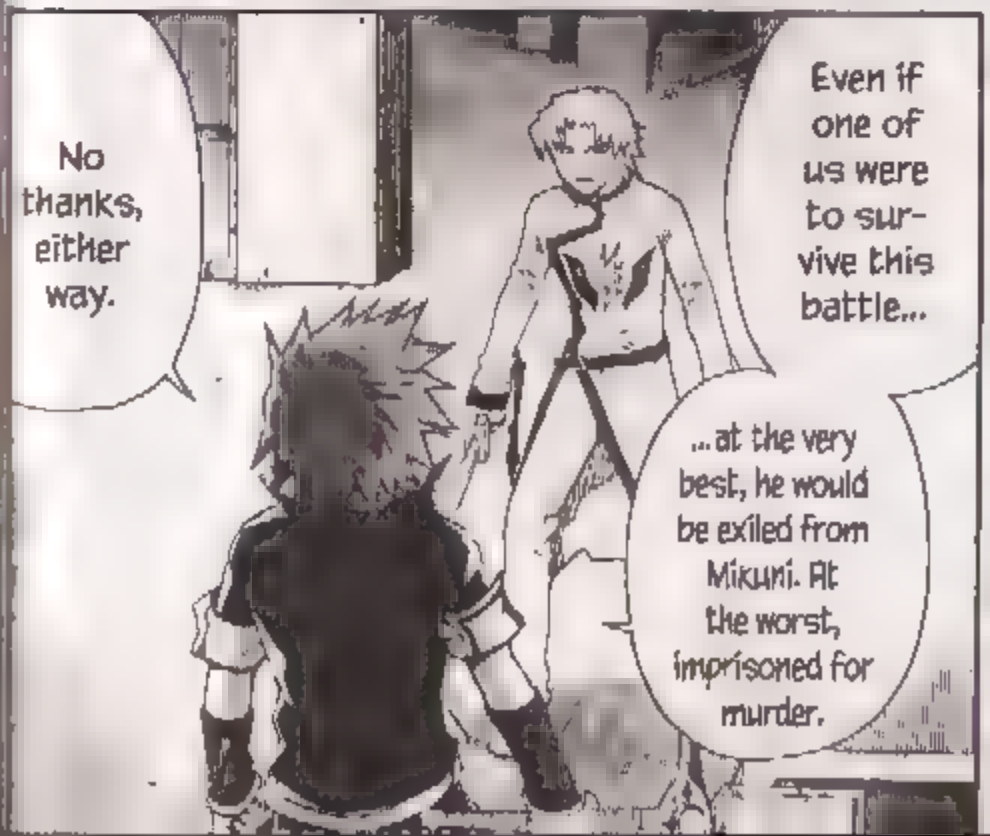
...if I forgive you...
But...

She'll never rest!!
Futaba's soul will never be saved!
So we're going to settle the last six years today!!
That's why we can't keep pretending like this...
...not you, not me!

So you fight with all you've got, too!!
You're strong! That's why I am going to stake everything on these blades of mine!!
Fight to kill!!

Today's your day of reck-oning, eh?
All right... I hear you.

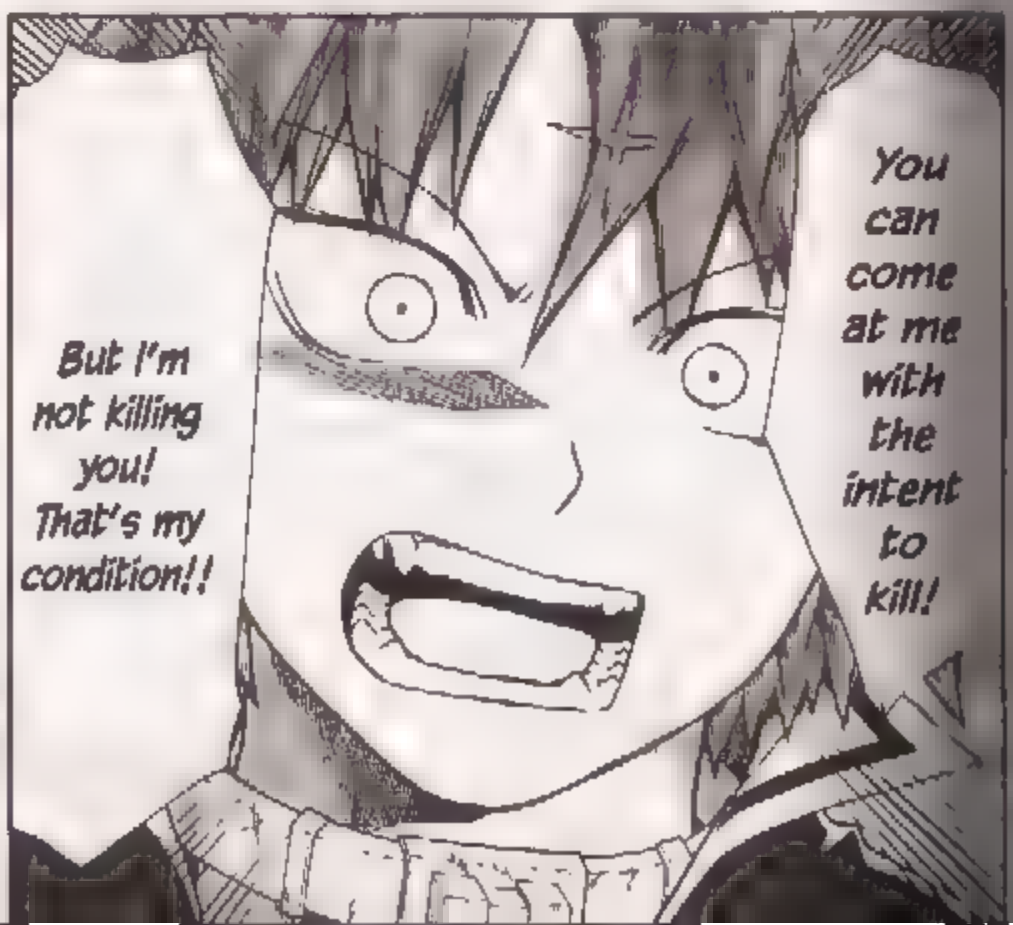

But only on one condition.
Fine. I'll fight you.


No thanks, either way.
Even if one of us were to sur-vive this battle...
...at the very best, he would be exiled from Mikuni. At the worst, imprisoned for murder.

Condi-tion?

Thus, I'm not going to kill you, nor do I plan to let you kill me.
In return, I do swear to completely best you.
And when that happens, I want you to acknowledge your defeat and stay on as a VIUS here in Mikuni!
If you become dissatisfied, I'll fight you again!!

...Fine.


But I'm not killing you! That's my condition!!
You can come at me with the intent to kill!

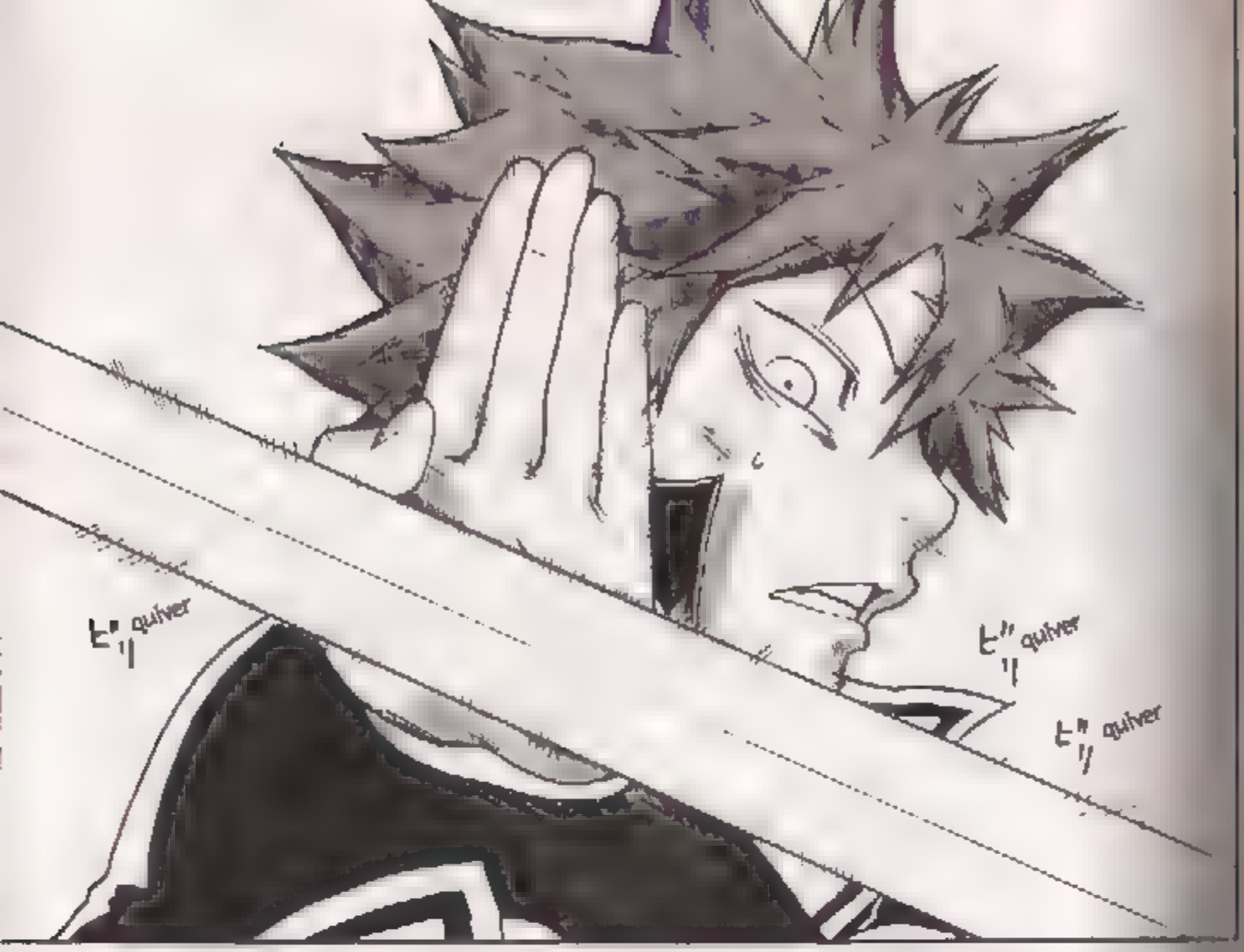
But you'll lose that luxury soon enough.
If you are so naive to think you can keep yourself from killing someone who's willing to die, go ahead.
Because there's only one rule that governs duels...
swish
swish
... or be killed!!
Kill...
leap
crouch

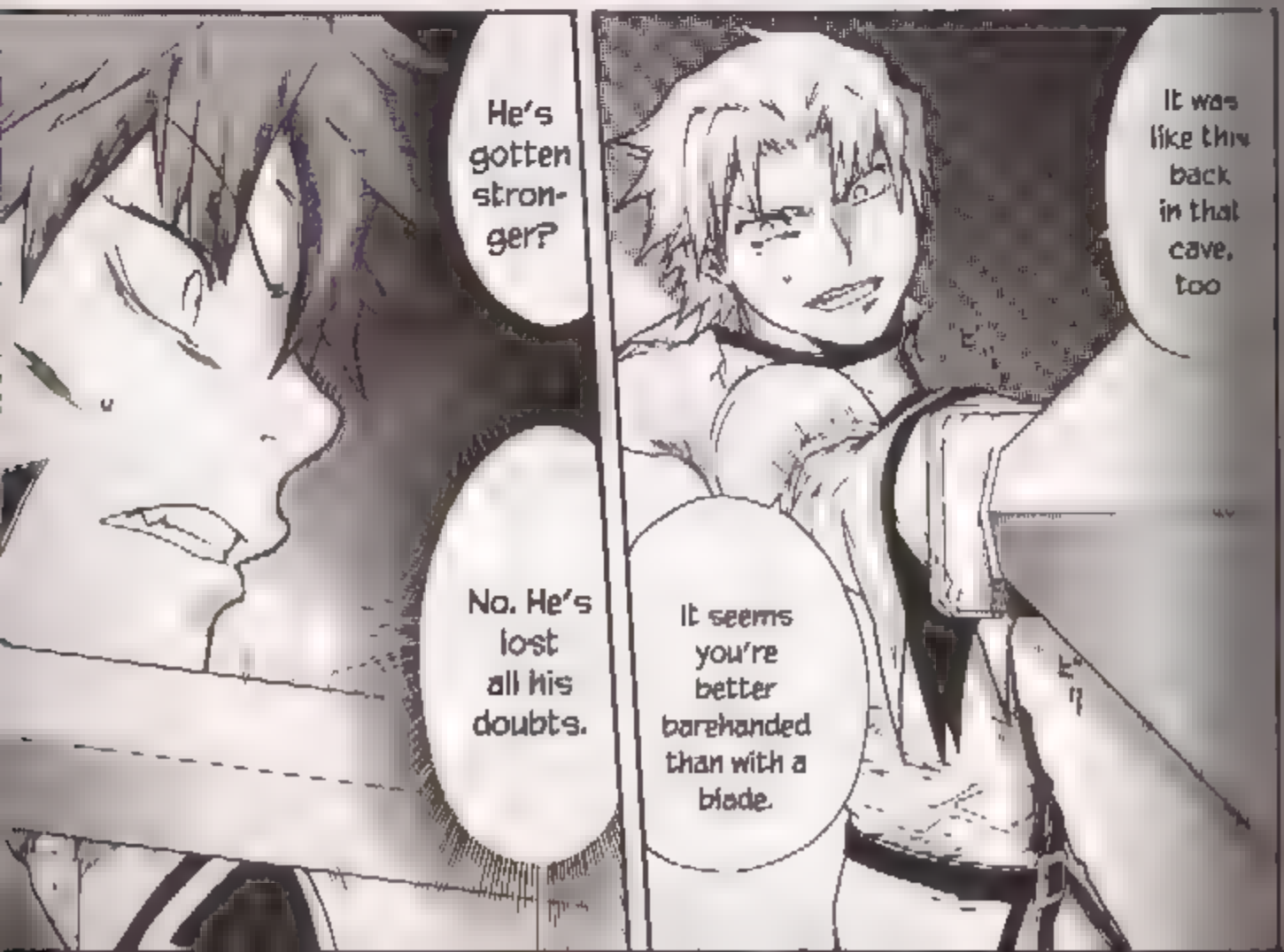
Very well!!
klang
dart

whiz
leap
slash
His facial expression... is different than before.
dodge
At first glance, he seems out of control...
but his lines of attack are totally cold.
klang
...um...

Try not to kill him...
Difficult, but I have no choice!
Yah!

WHOOSH
!!
WHOPP

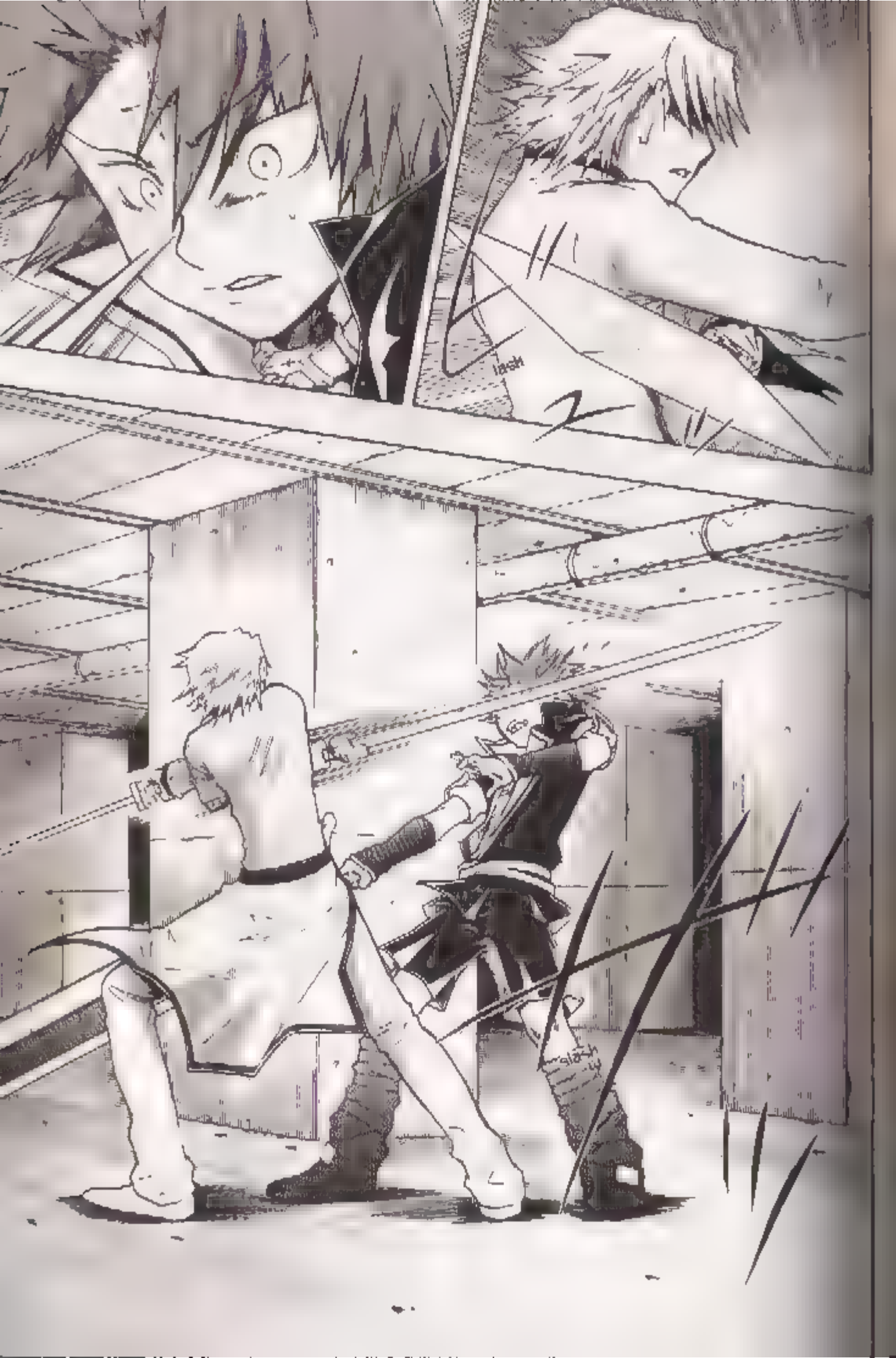

quiver
quiver
quiver


He's gotten stronger?
No. He's lost all his doubts.
It seems you're better barehanded than with a blade.
It was like this back in that cave, too

I don't need your advice!
twirl
leap
rush

Whoa!
clank

whiiz
you!
whirl
voosh



whip
chafe
chafe
chafe
Yeesh!
swipe
leap
22:31
I need to keep more space between us!!

!!
Whoa!
He knows it's bad for me and my broadsword.
slash
whiz
He's staying close...
roar

He's not letting me get a blow in.
And he's really trying for a mortal blow.
Flicker
roar
You're only going to defend!!?
What's the matter, Kazuma!!?
If you keep talking... you'll bite your tongue...
Twirl

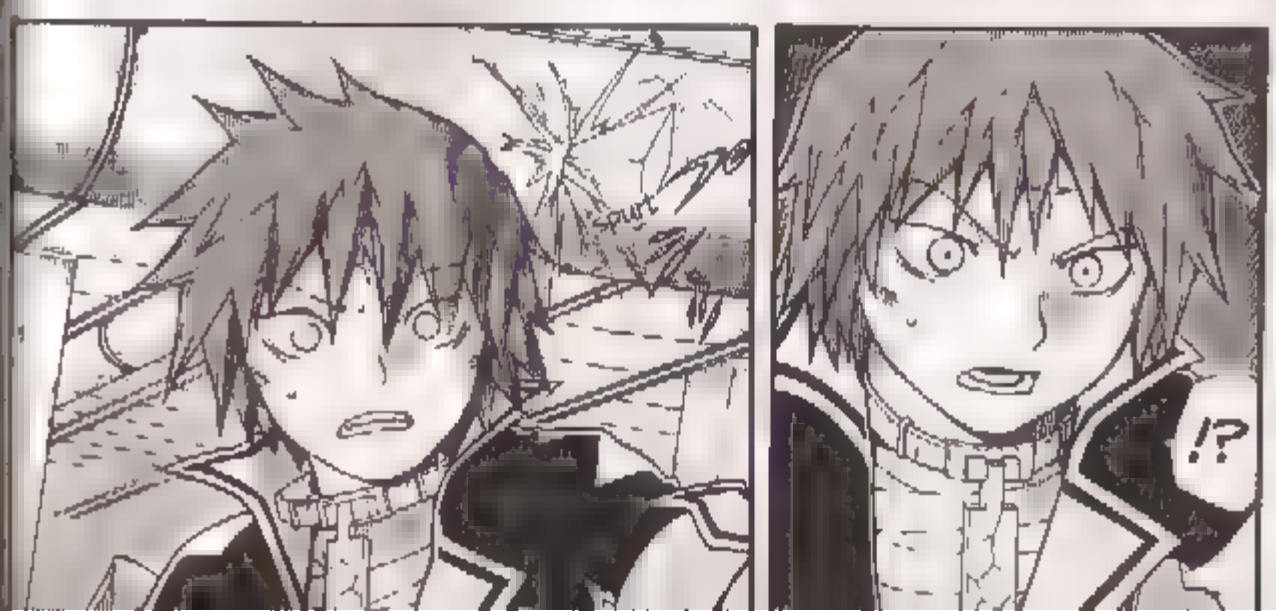
...Huh!!

slash
whoosh
-pant

!!
thwapp

What monster arm strength!
quiver
quiver
He snapped my blade with just his upward swing!

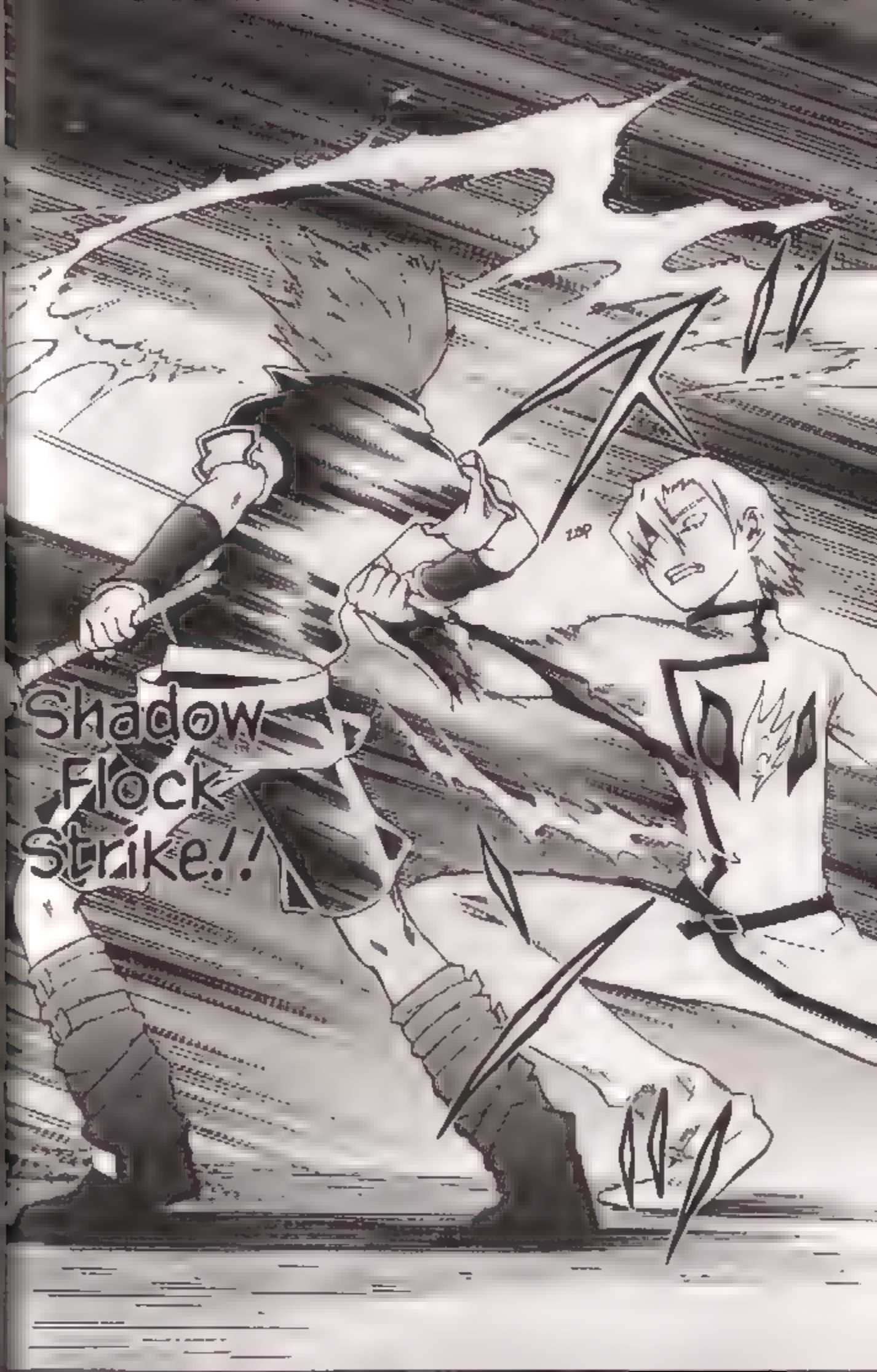
sneer
I haven't had this blade so long for nothing!!


spurt
!?

Gush
dart
Wha...!?
splatter

ZIP
!
Whoa.
whoosh
ZIP

Night-
glider
Third
Move


Shadow Flock Strike!!
ZAP

heave
.....
ooze
heave
I never in the least thought I could win...
... against you in a fair fight!!

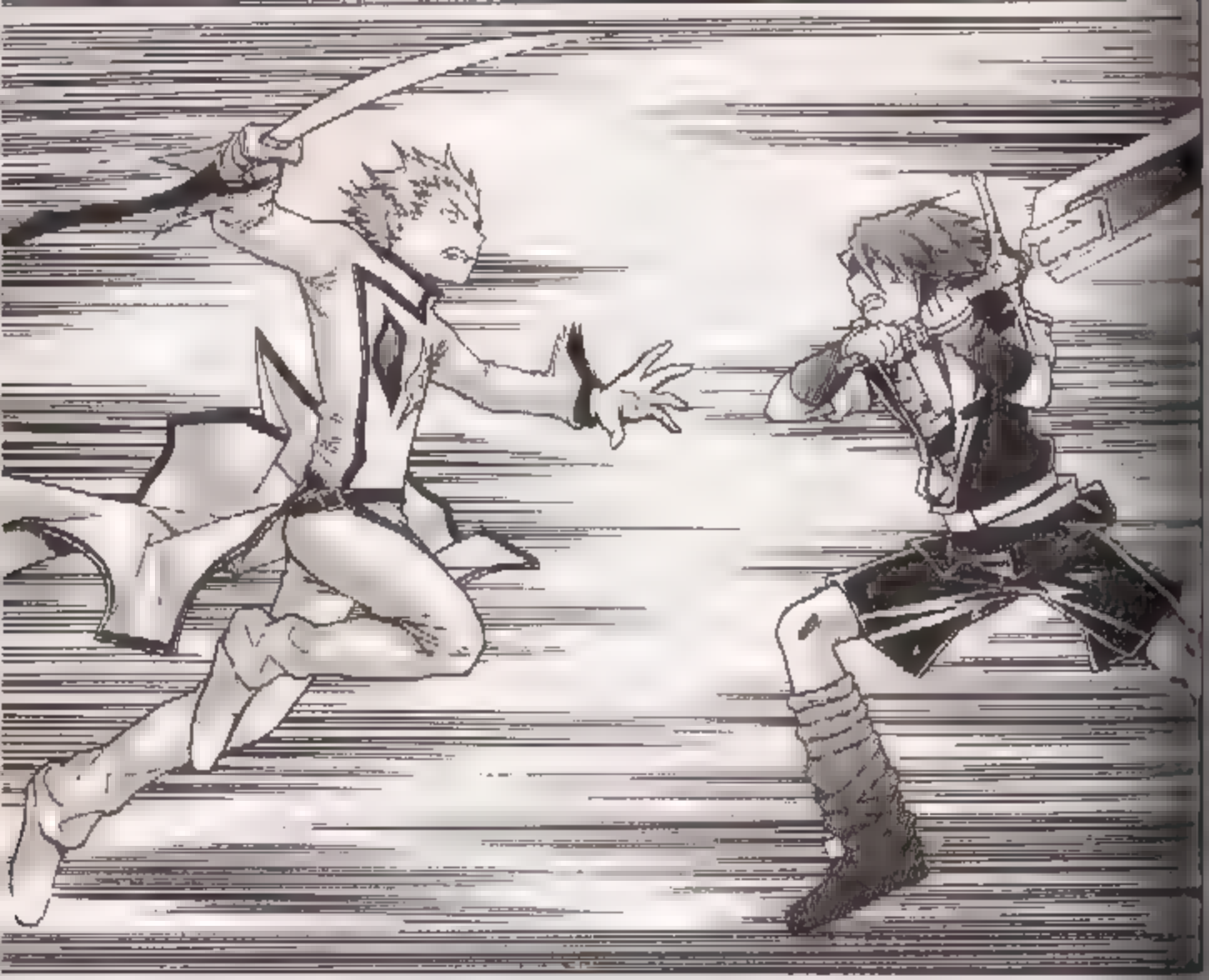
you could have easily scored at least one point on me long ago.
Oh, come on! If you'd come at me like this from the start...
step
You're recovering from an injury, aren't you?
Liar!
Flick
Yeah. That's why I challenged you now.
!
YOU KNEW?

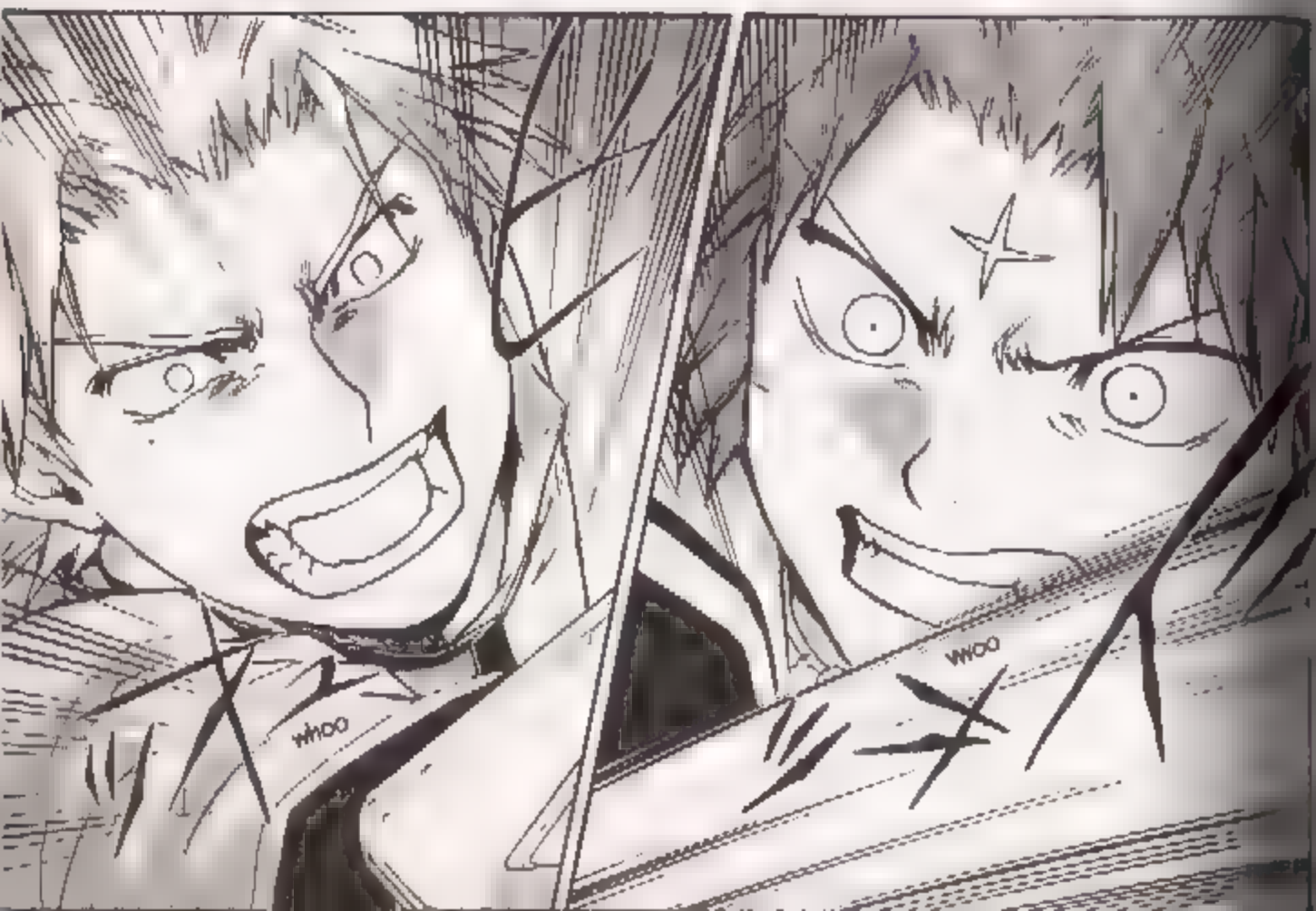
I told you.
I don't think I can win against you in a fair fight.
What? If you think it's cowardly, go ahead.
HA! HEH HEH HEH!
I guess you hadn't been holding back before. Anyway...
No, no!
Sorry, I'd put you down a bit.

I guess I need to get serious and give it my all too.
...if you're that determined,
Just try it!
And then...
I swear to beat you soundly!!
All right!
...work like a dog for Mikuni!!
I'm going to make you, who's willing to die for a cause,
I want you to join Squad Zero!

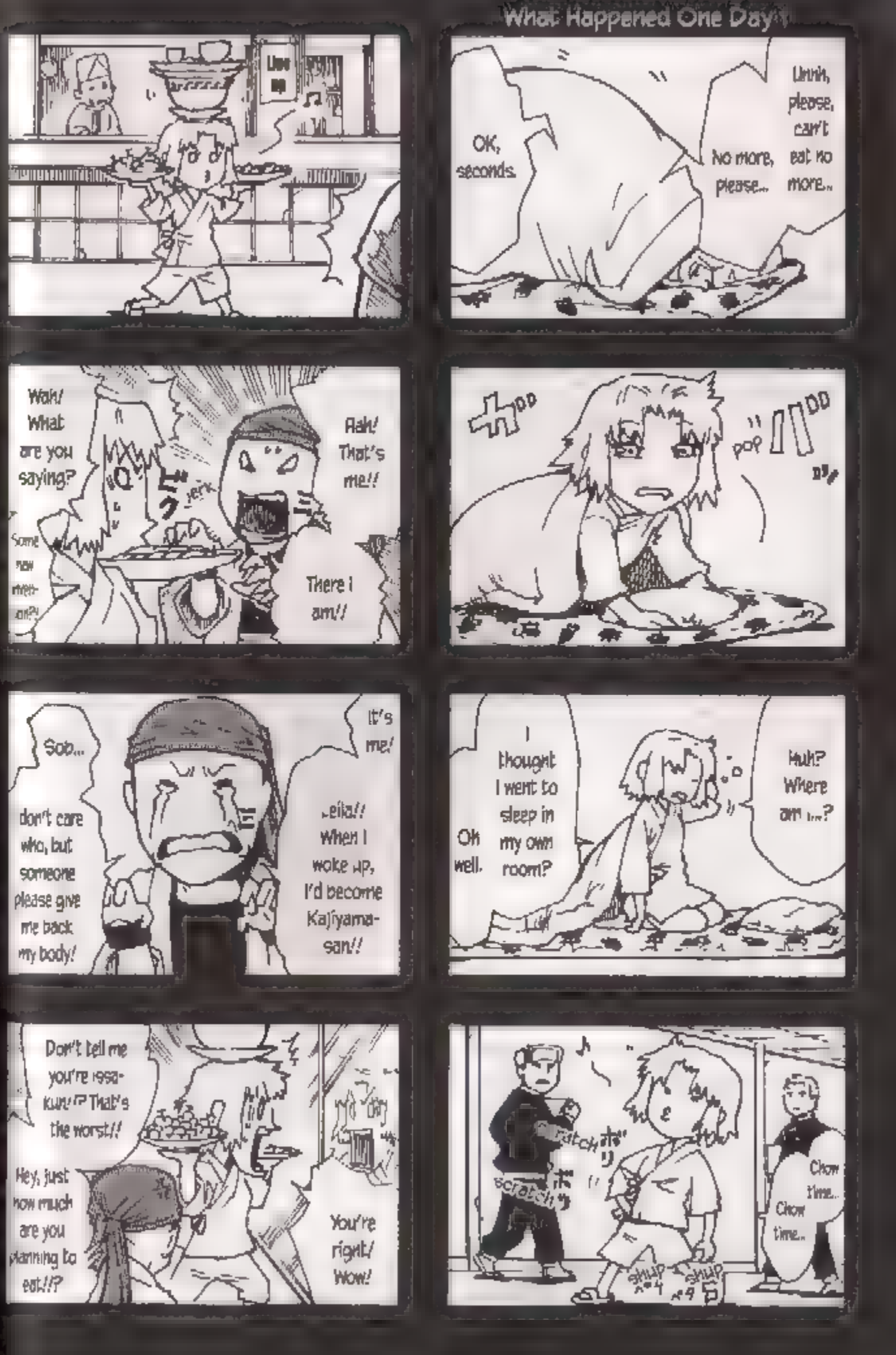
It's no big deal!!
You really think you can beat me with that injury?
Right!!?
It's nothing compared to the issues between us!!
Heh.

launch
That's right!!
leap




WHOO
WHOO

slash
slash
slash
slash
slash
bang
scrunch
rush


What Happened One Day!
Low up
OK, seconds.
No more, please...
Unnh, please, can't eat no more...
Wah! What are you saying?
Some new men-ber?!
Rah! That's me!!
There I am!!
pop
Sob...
don't care who, but someone please give me back my body!
It's me!
Leika!! When I woke up, I'd become Kajiyama-san!!
Oh well.
I thought I went to sleep in my own room?
Huh? Where am I...?
Don't tell me you're Isa-kun!? That's the worst!!
Hey, just how much are you planning to eat!!?
You're right! Wow!
scratch
scratch
Chow time..
Chow time..
shlup
shlup

D
RAYGON
6
KAIAI
FUJIYAMA

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

Mission ⓪ Sixteen
It's No Big Deal!!
5

Mission ⓪ Seventeen
Fight!!
57

Mission ⓪ Eighteen
Formalities
97

Mission ⓪ Nineteen
I Haven't Heard Anything About Becoming Captain Delegate!
149

Extras
190

dive
slash
!!

trickle
ooze
pant
pant
Heh heh!
Now we're even.
Ugh!

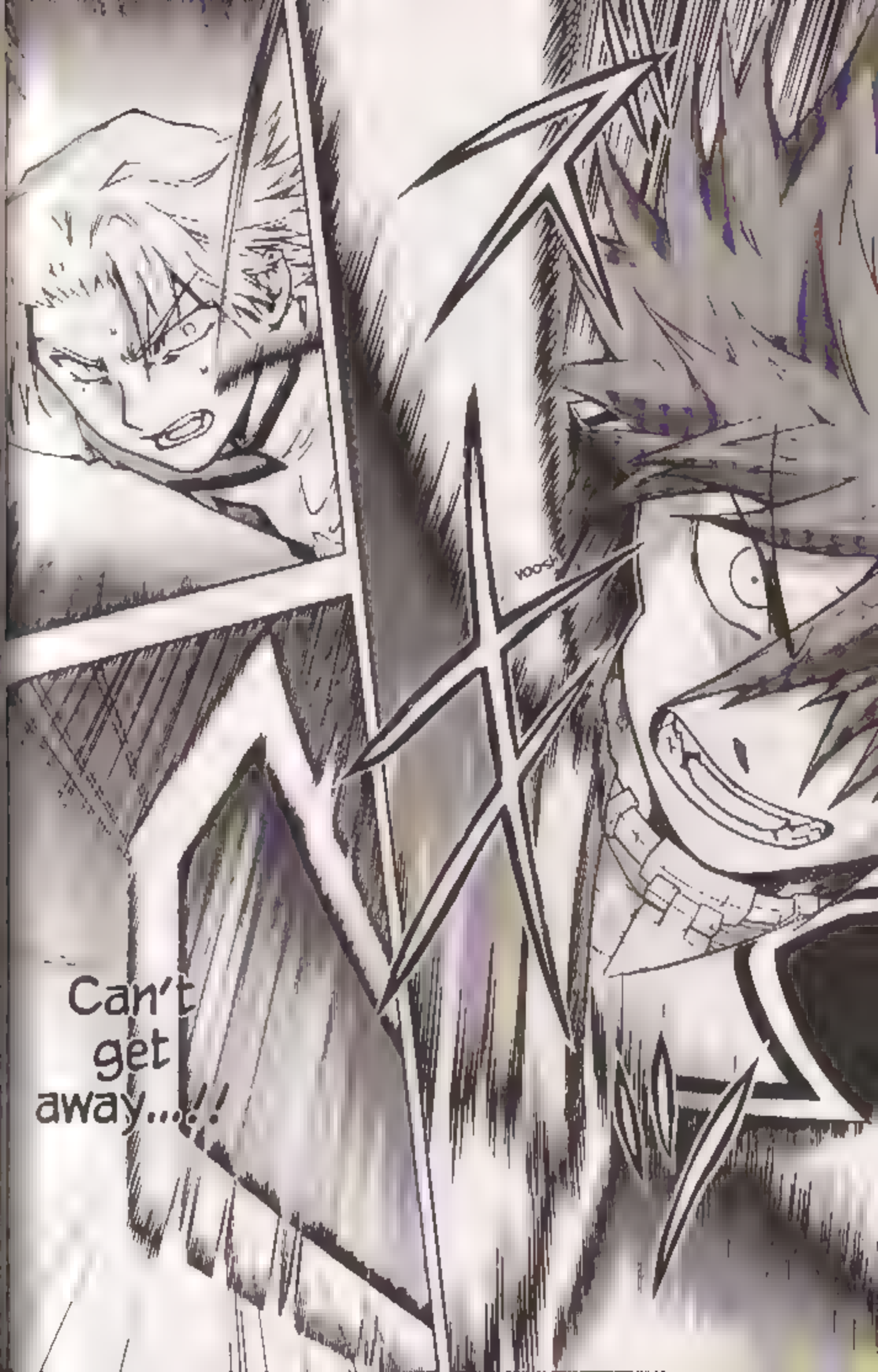
Mission ⊙ Seventeen

Fight!!

Heh heh! You won't be able to use that right arm for a while.
Can you fight with just one arm?
throb
throb
quiver
pant
quiver
pant
Plus... that arm's not the only thing you can't use, right?
I don't know what you're talking about.
Besides... I'm ambi-dextrous.
You've got another injury too, don't you?

I guess it's not enough to make him withdraw.
A bluff?
Oh, come on!
woosh
Klang

!!
!!
Ugh


Can't get away...!!

Shoot!
clench
d-d-d-d-d-d

and neither of them is here.
It's way past reporting time...
Mmm...
It's because our captain's irresponsibility is contagious!
I'll have a word with him later!!
Sôsei-san's been late an awful lot recently, too...

Huh? Where is everybody?
They're not here yet, neither one.
Huh? They weren't in the cafeteria, either.
clatter
Hyuga-san!
Good morning
I wonder where they're at?
Well, they haven't been assigned a mission yet today, so it's not crucial, but...
Maybe they're in the captain's office? I'll go take a look.
Oh, OK. If they show up, I'll tell them.
!
Kazuma-san, you in here?
Why is there an official summons here... for Kazuma-san?
What's this...?

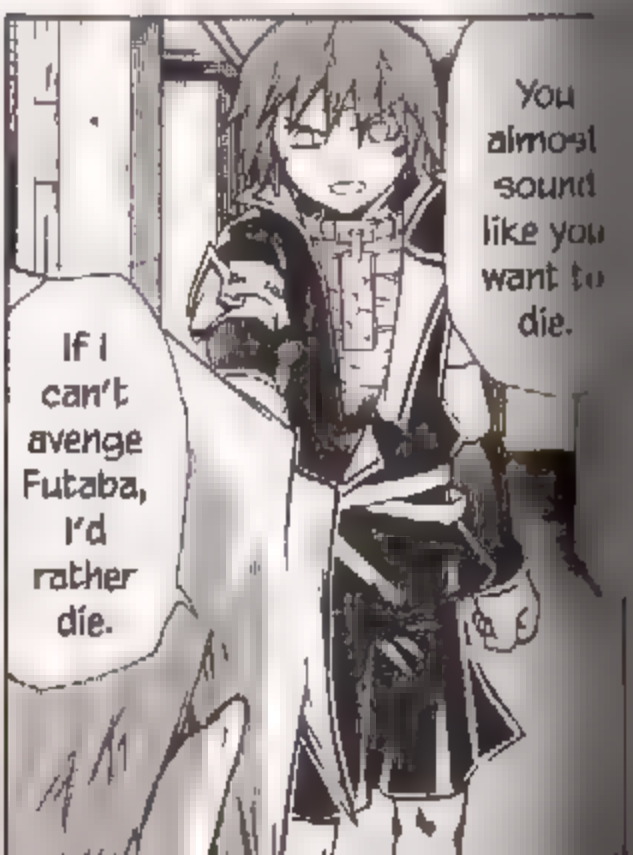
tap...
O-oh no!
part

pant
pant
I've got to end this fast!!
I got so worked up, I almost forgot to hold back!
Sheesh! That was close!
pant
...Heh...
...Feh...
pant

Ha ha ha!!
Ha ha ha ha!
but then you pulled that feeble mercy thing again... ha... ha...
Here I thought... you were finally going to show your true colors...
Ha...
So when... you still... try to show me mercy...
I used the system.
I became a VIUS to exact vengeance.
You see...

...beyond insulting!
It's just...

But...
Huh. That's the impression I got at first.

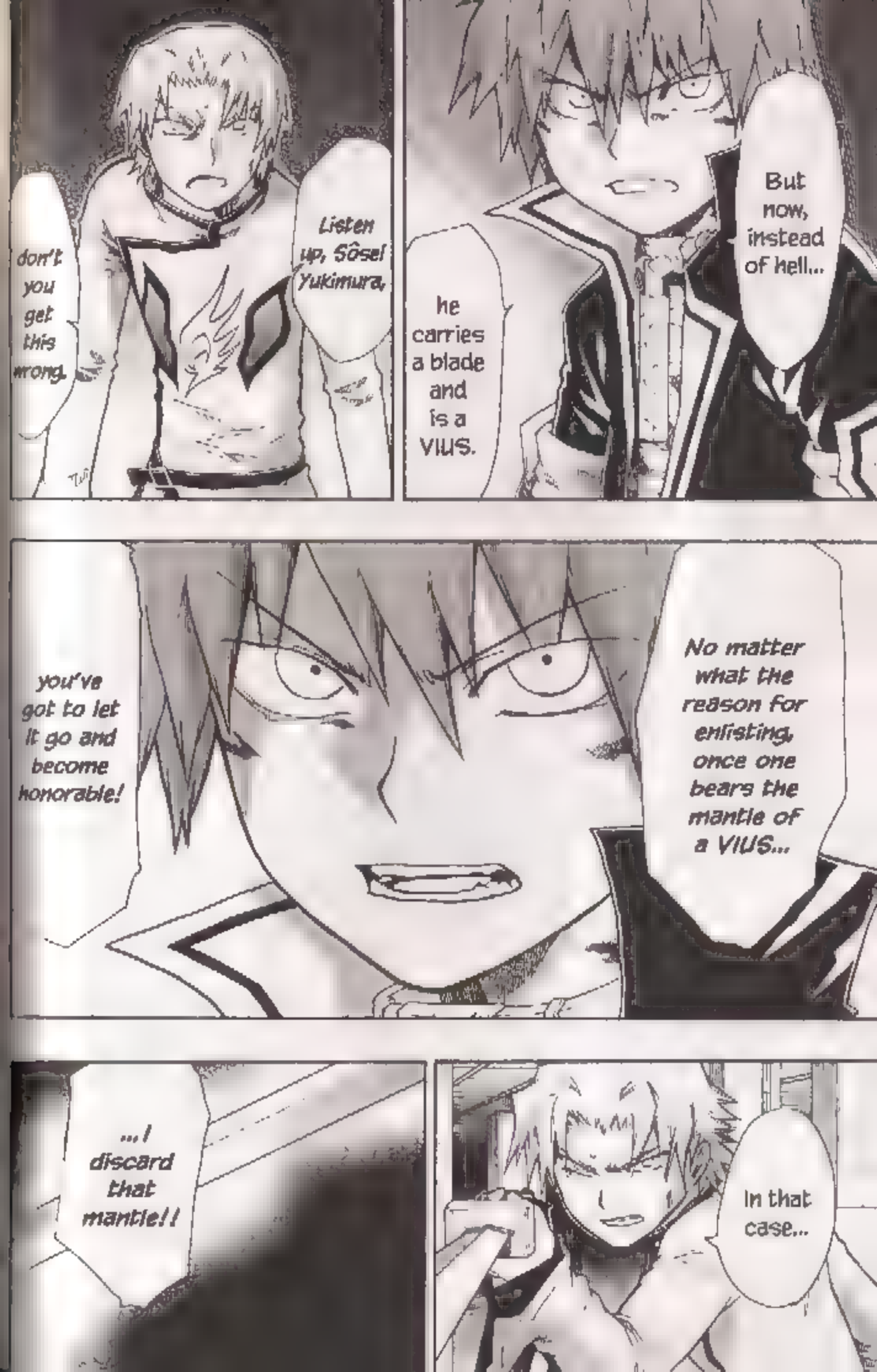

If I can't avenge Futaba, I'd rather die.
You almost sound like you want to die.

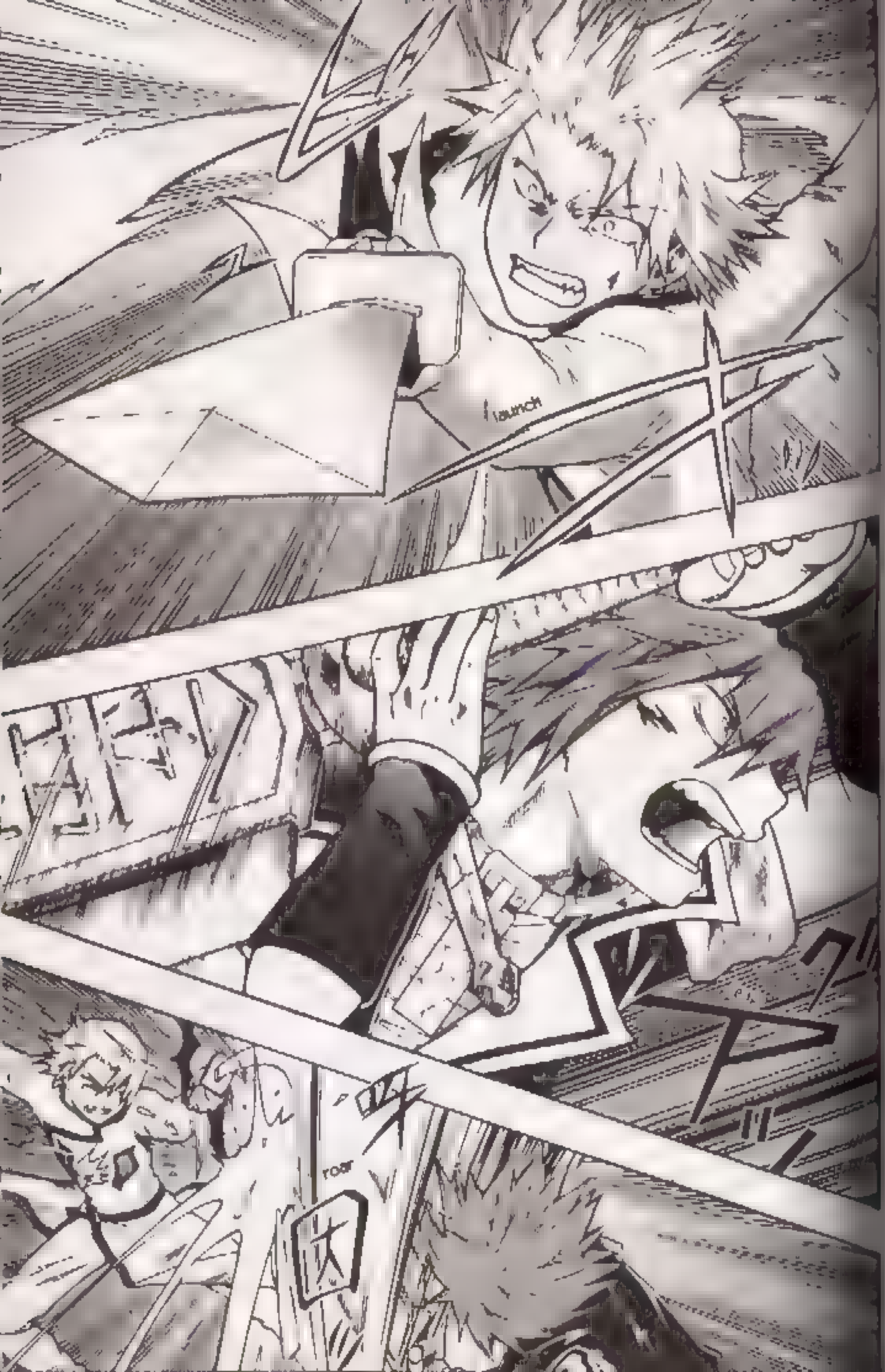
Haven't you started wanting to live?
Now I wonder.
Yeah.
That's the problem!

THWIP
I wasn't even afraid to die!
I was planning to flee after achieving my goal.
My intentions in becoming a VIUS were dishonorable. Completely against the VIUS code.
But then...

I can't betray her, I mustn't!!
When I'm with Squad Zero, I'm not myself!
Nor these past six years!!
Nor that day!
Not Futaba!
How would you know anything? You just live as you please!!
Shut up!!
So that's the real reason for today, eh?
There, you're finally coming clean.

I survived, even though I couldn't protect Futaba...
and I took up the way of the sword in the name of vengeance, disgracing my father's name!!
I...
And how can I live on as a VIUS!!?
So how dare I enjoy life now!!?
Someone who, long ago, also carried hell on his shoulders.
Watching you reminds me of someone else.
I can never be forgiven!!

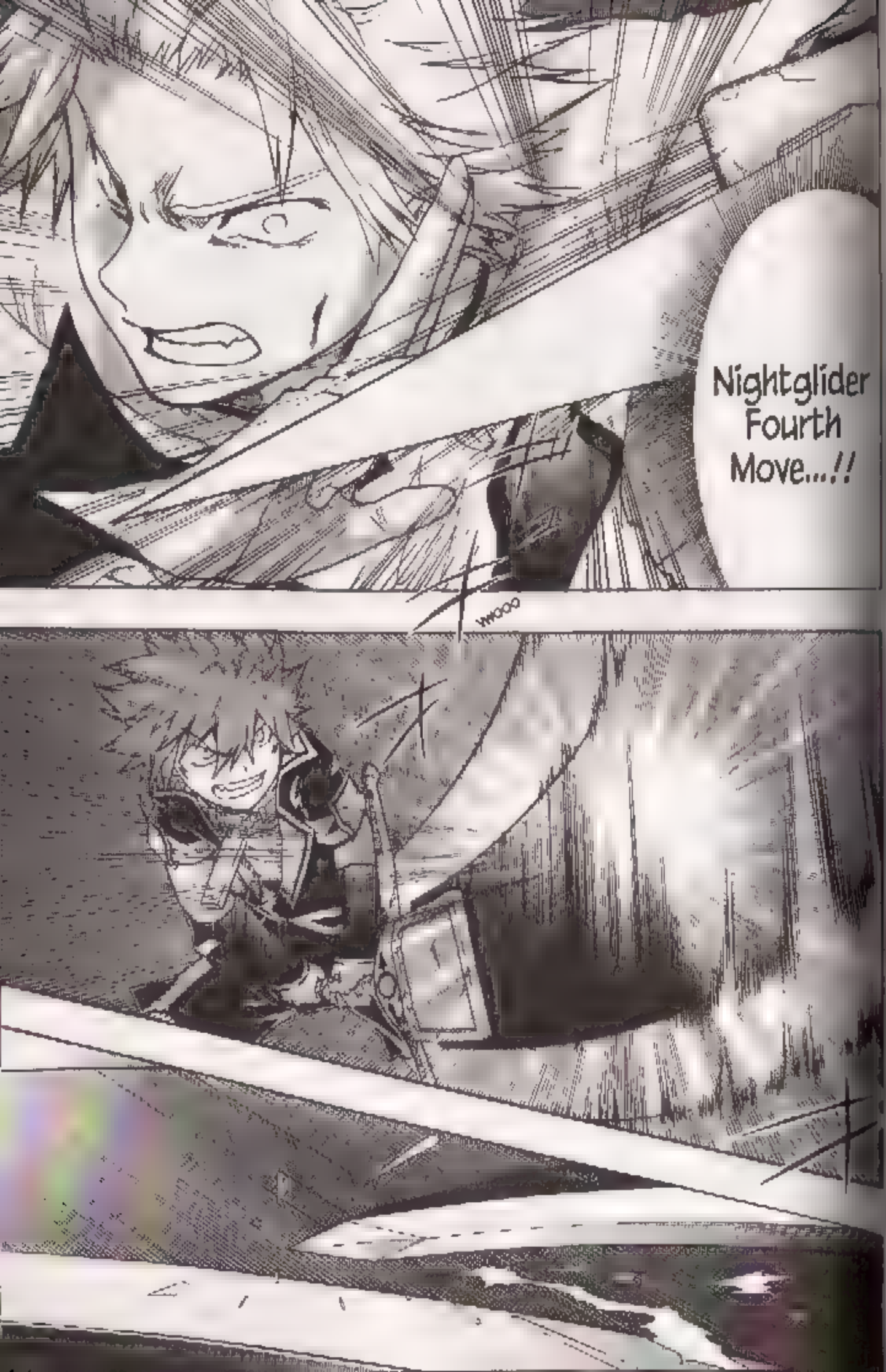

Listen up, Sôsei Yukimura,
don't you get this wrong.
But now, instead of hell...
he carries a blade and is a VIUS.
No matter what the reason for enlisting, once one bears the mantle of a VIUS...
you've got to let it go and become honorable!
In that case...
...I discard that mantle!!


launch
roar

SWISH
WHOOSH
I can't lose!
If I lose here, it'll even make a lie out of my vengeful soul!!

Shoot. The longer we fight, the greater the chance the Eye will stir awake!
pulse
pulse
Hah!
...the less I'll be able to control it or myself.
Plus, the less stamina I've got left...
Darn it!
I will not let this become just some routine killing fest!!!

Come!!
I've got to break that other blade of his!
leap


Nightglider Fourth Move...!!
WHOOO

kashinga

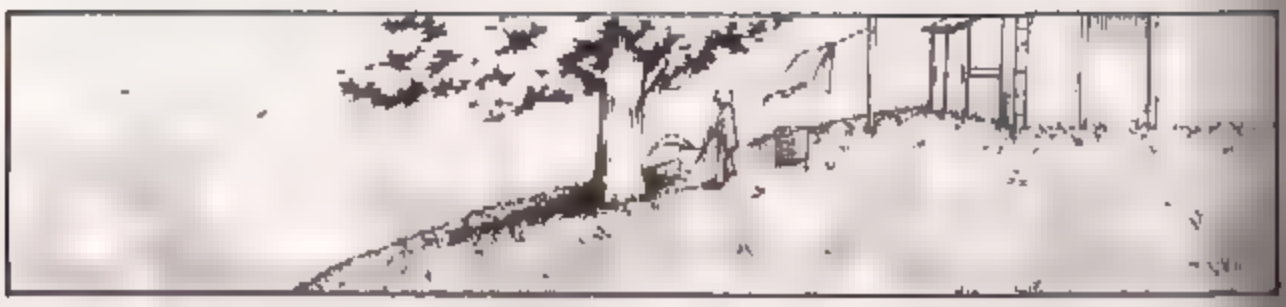
Dripping Silk Blade!!

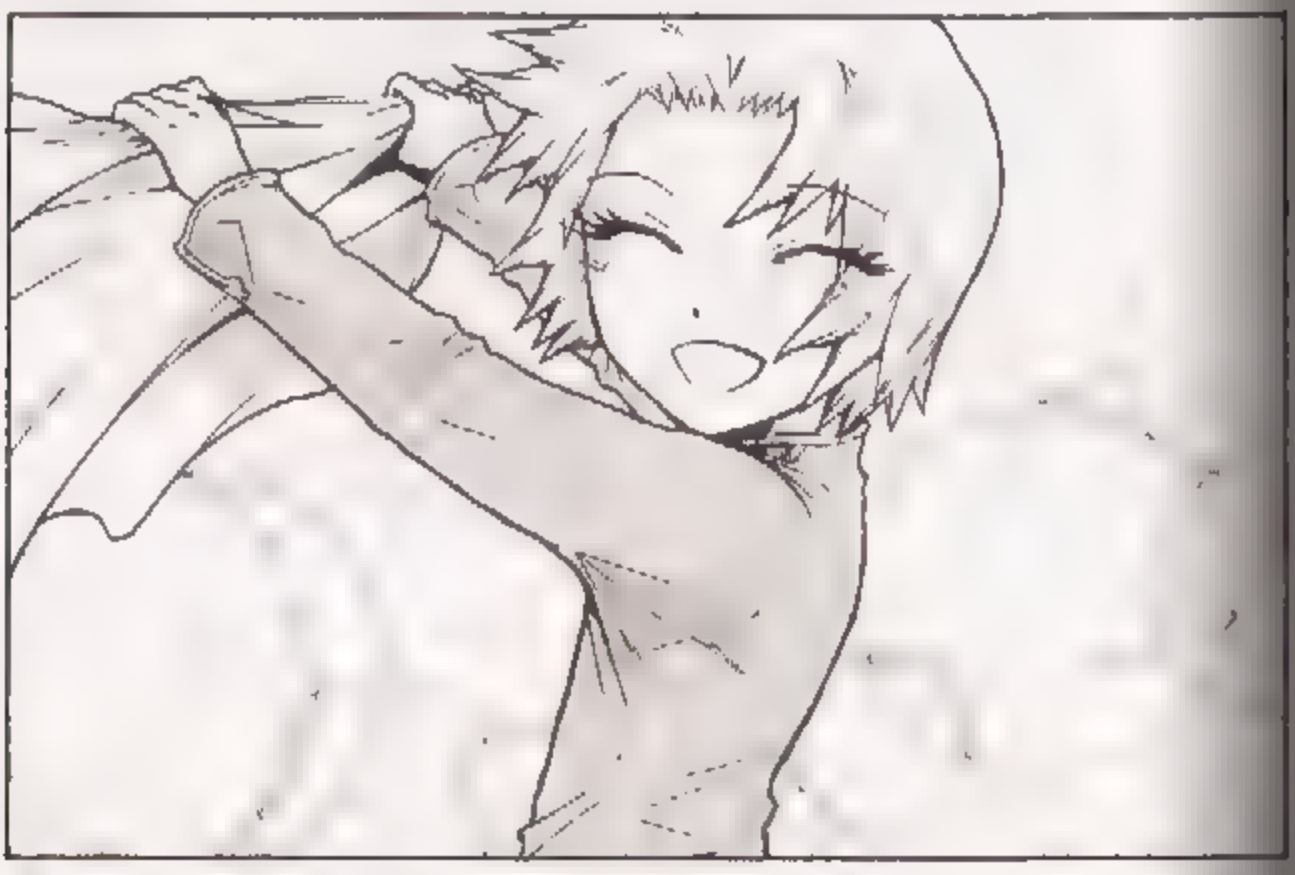
glare

spurt

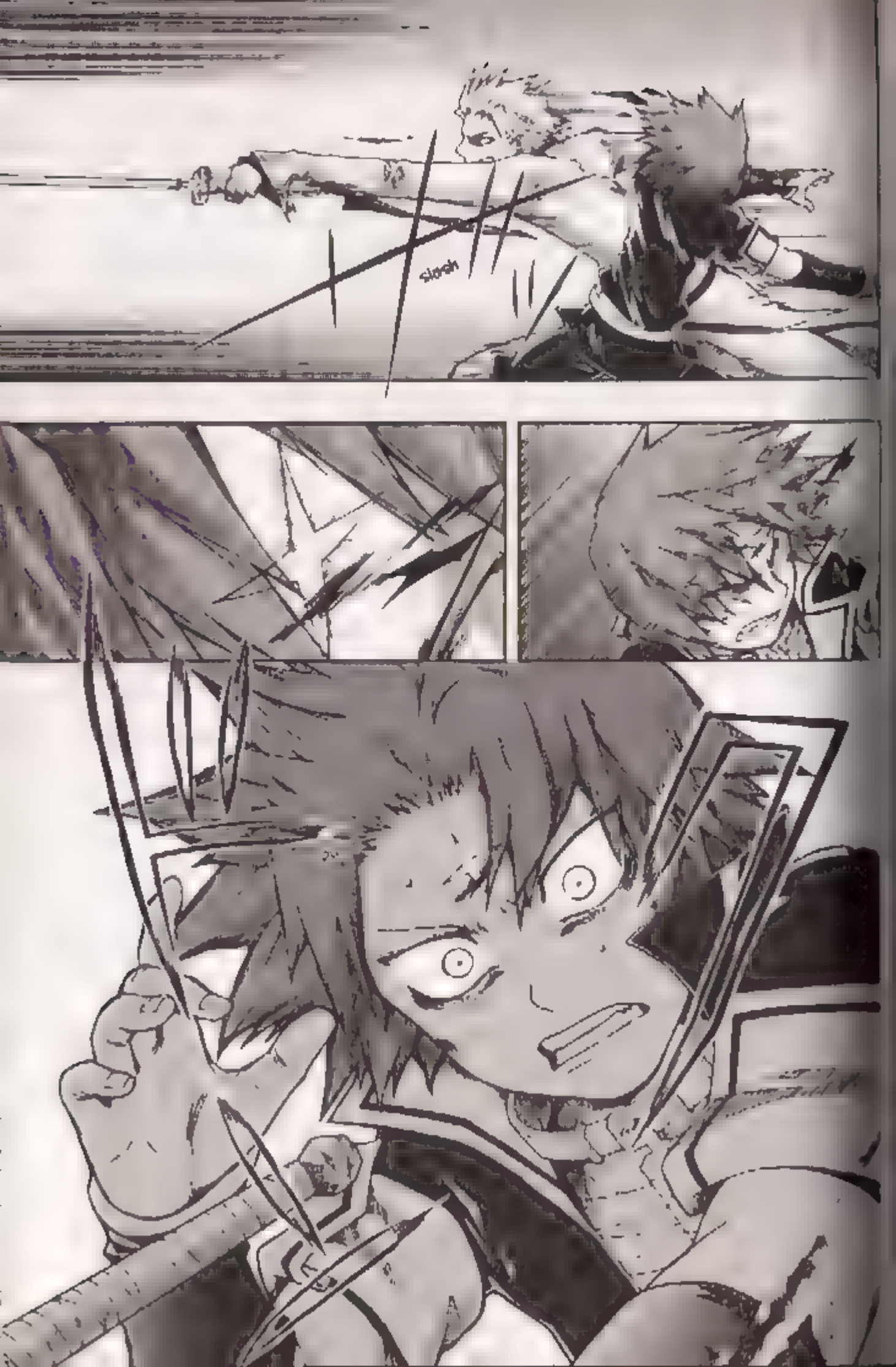
ギャ

Whirl
Leap
Shoot!!
He's passed out...!?
Oh
!!



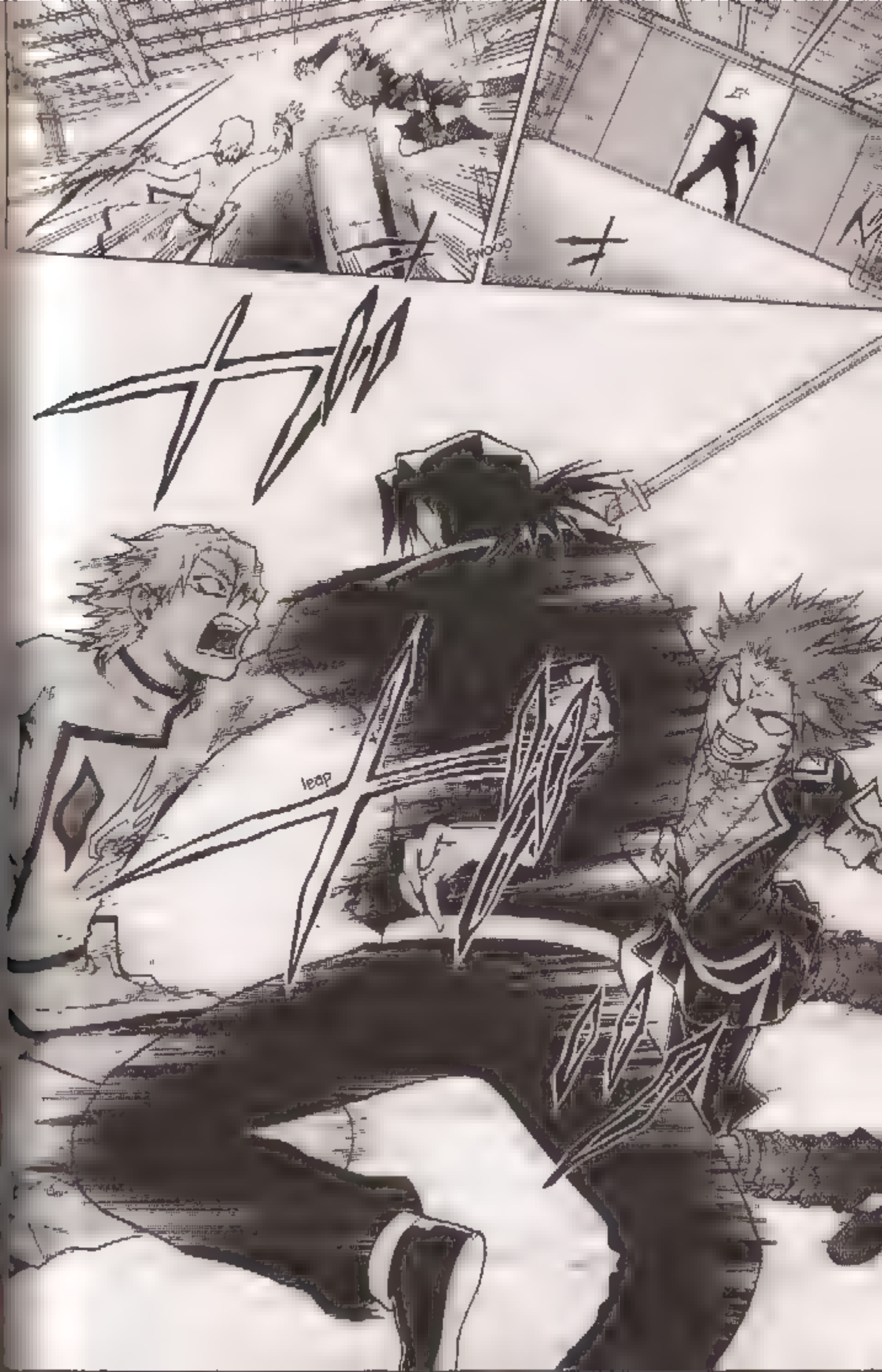


Fight!!
Flash
WOO


slash

Aaaaah!!
...no!

Don't!!


Pwoo
leap

pant

pant

...do you think you're doing?

What the heck...

What Happened One Day 2
Weep
On the search
shup
shup
Now hold on, let's figure this out first.
Do you know what you're wearing?
Get out of my body already!!
Your hand. Don't scratch my behind!
Hey.. I told you! We should split up!
'Cuz otherwise, I've got nowhere to go.
In order to restore things, I need my body, too.
Don't pick my nose!!
You're treating me like a home invader!
So as soon as we find your body you'll leave?
Argh, what a bother
He split.
I've got to find Kanika-ma's ASAP and get my body back!
Let's split up and look for him.
Maybe Kanika-ma's in my body.
Hey!! Watch where you put your hand!
scratch scratch

D
RAYGON
6
KAIAI
FUJIYAMA

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

Mission ⓪ Sixteen
It's No Big Deal!!
5

Mission ⓪ Seventeen
Fight!!
57

Mission ⓪ Eighteen
Formalities
97

Mission ⓪ Nineteen
I Haven't Heard Anything About Becoming Captain Delegate!
149

Extras
190

Mission Eighteen

Formalities

pulse
pant
pulse
Not...
pant
on my watch, you don't...!
clench...
...
pulse
pant
How dare you draw blades and spar inside HQ...
heave
heave

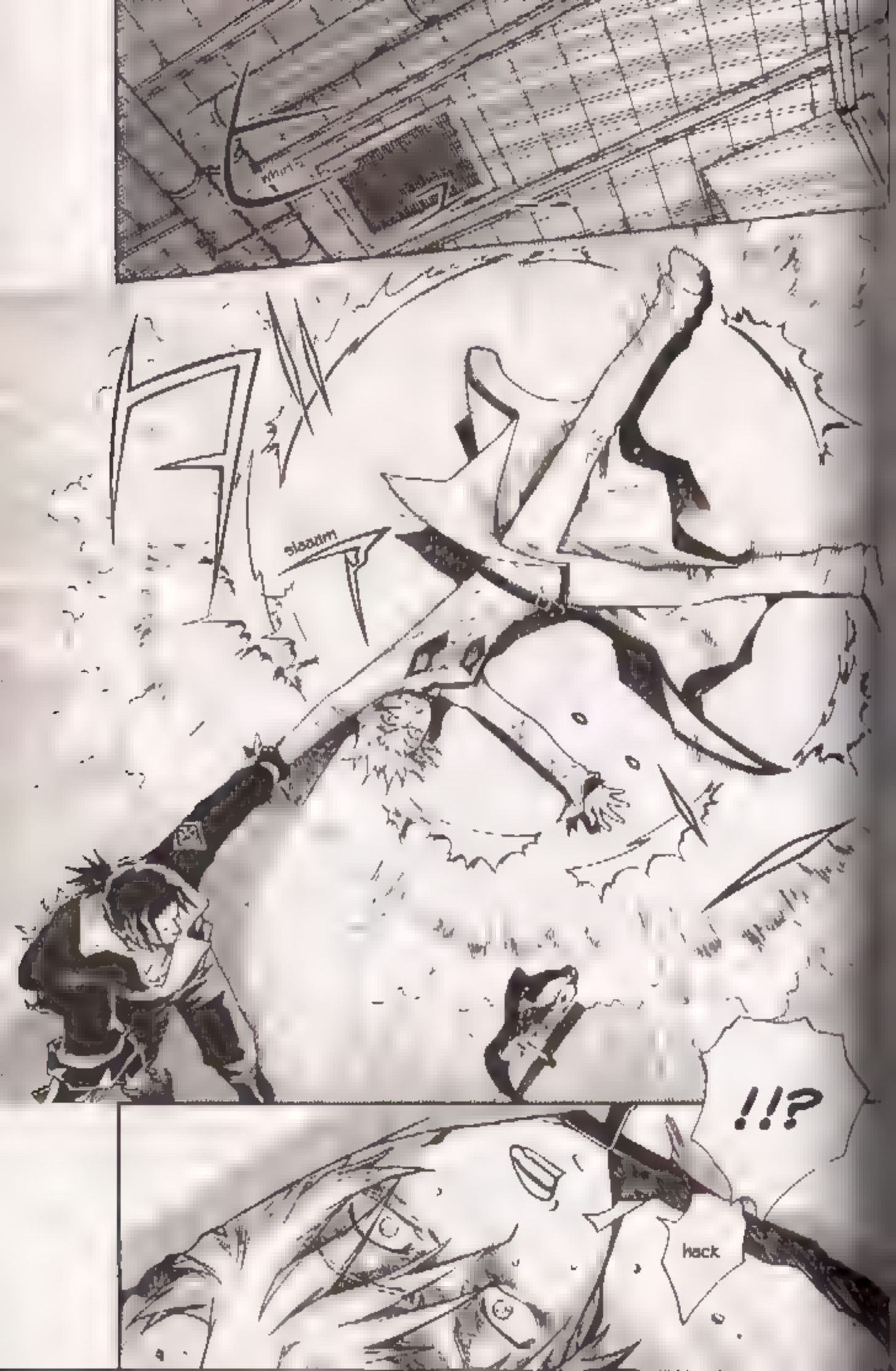
a good explanation!
You both better have...
pant
FIZZIP
pulse
pant
pulse
pant
pulse

Aargh!!
You're most at fault!!
but first,
I want to know what led to this.
Stop... oww owow!
crank
crank
crank
If I hadn't been the one to find you, what do you think would have happened, eh?!
You're scuffling big time for an invalid!!
Yuki-mura,.. you..
crank
crank
ugh
gag
Please, could you pretend that you didn't see anything and leave?
I'll take full responsibility for all this.
Sakuraba san, I'm... the one who challenged him.

This is all his fault, right?
I understand.
gag
gag
gag
gag
Uh...
So for him to have made an honest man like you angry...
So setting people off is like a daily habit for him.
I can't even tell you how many times I've almost throttled him.
gag
gag
gag
ugh
Huh?
He acts without any thought of consequences.
You see, he's a born idiot.
!!
P-please stop it! You have nothing to do with this!!
I'm sorry.
...it was wrong of him. I as his friend also apologize for him.
ugh
gag
ugh

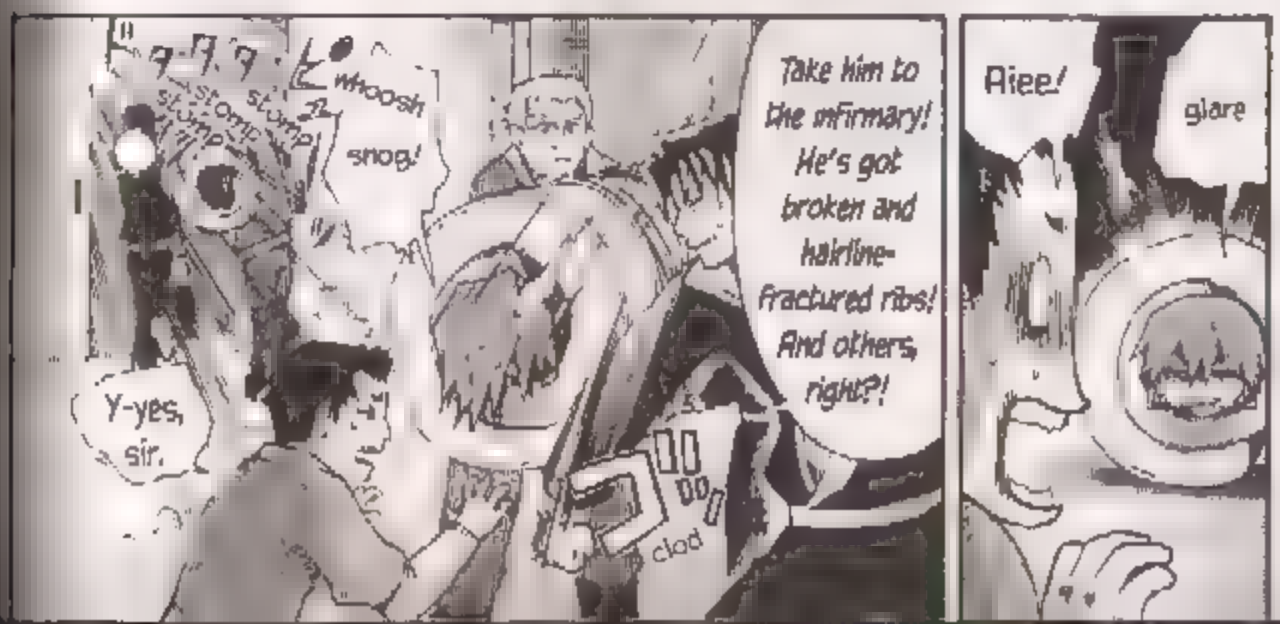
...to please excuse his behavior and withdraw.
Yukimura, I am also asking you as his friend...
No, I am both commander of Troop Misora and the Enforcement Corps delegate I am the one responsible for this one's actions.
S-s...t... o...p, I've got to do this myself...
crank
crank
What about that was "about to explain," eh?
gasp
I... was about to explain everything to him!
S-stay out of this Shun'ichi!! What are you apologizing for?!
!
Please don't!!
To make things worse, he forged the report and covered it up!! I will never forgive him!!
He... killed my twin sister! Under the mistaken assumption she was infected!!

That isn't your responsibility!!
No one else but me...
...can settle things between us!!
Please let me go!! I must finish this with Kazuma!!
Let up, Shun'ichi!! I'll talk to Yukimura!!
Shun'ichi!!
All right.
yank
!?


sloosh
!!?
hack

If you really want to duke it out, do it at the next exhibition tournament, you fools!!!
Fighting inside HQ is unpardonable!!

Waah!
Sir!
stomp stomp stomp stomp
Hey! Mat and twine!!

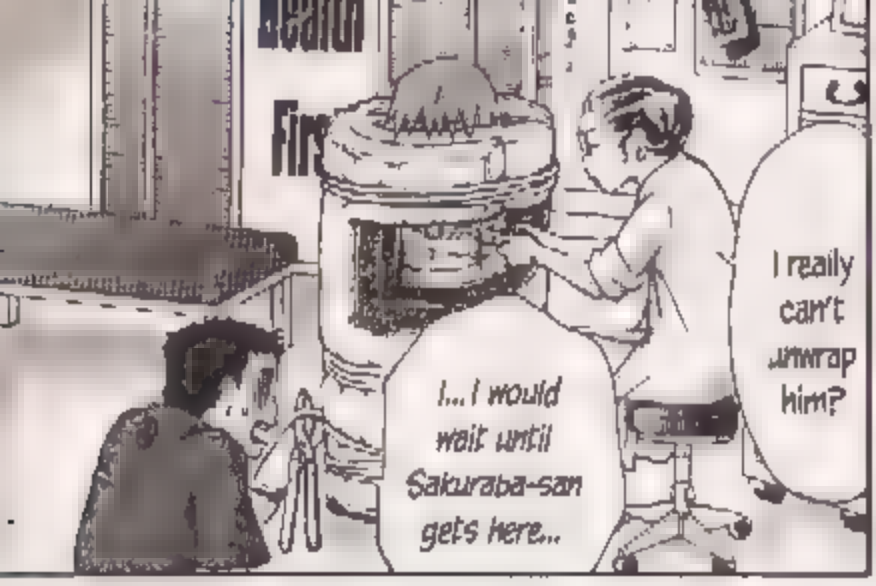

stomp stomp stomp
whoosh
snog!
Y-yes, sir.
clod
Take him to the infirmary! He's got broken and hairline-fractured ribs! And others, right?!
Aiee!
glare

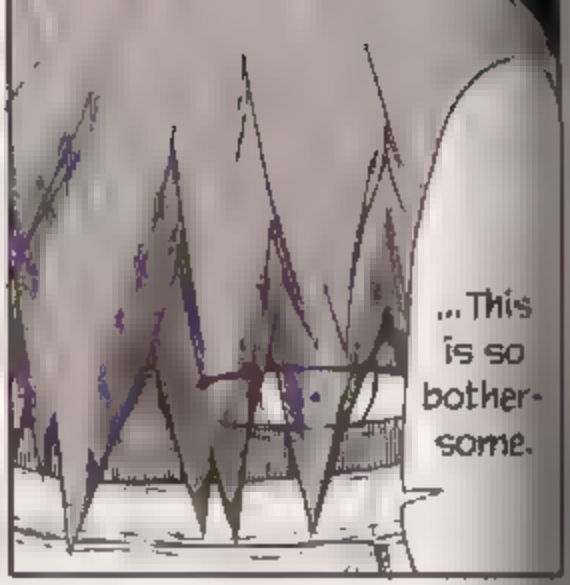
I didn't realize you were a party to that mission six years ago.
Now then.
Then why file a false report!?
No way!
Listen, Yukimura, that was not a "mistaken assumption."
!?
And the informant was the girl herself.
!!!
"The infected is a young girl with super-antibodies."
"This day, we received word of an infected individual from a mountain village to the west, and old Squad Zero was dispatched to the scene."
That, I don't know either... but this much is the truth.

Wha..!?
It is rare for super-antibody carriers to become infected.
So in all such cases, the source and route of infection is thoroughly investigated,
but in this incident, the victim herself knew.
All this is top secret. You are not to repeat it, OK?
The source of infection... was a medicine.
A tainted medicine, most likely purposely created to infect super-antibody carriers.
And the individual who gave the young girl that medicine...
supposedly went by the name "Daraku."
!!!!

And that's all I know.
Of course, we did unofficially alert all appropriate agencies.
After hearing all this, I agreed to help alter the report.
Because if it were true, this would be the greatest threat we VIUS had ever faced.
I don't... remember...
Futaba?... Why... Where did she get such a medicine?
How was Futaba acting the day before the incident?
Secret investigations into "Daraku" were supposedly being conducted...
but the truth is that we knew nothing more until I heard you all mention that name the other day.
.....
Well? You still want to fight him?
If Kazuma had been straight with me from the get-go... I wouldn't have had to go through all this turmoil...
And so... I did all this, seeking the truth...
I still can't believe Futaba-chan was killed by Dracules...!
I... was told something other than the truth six years ago...

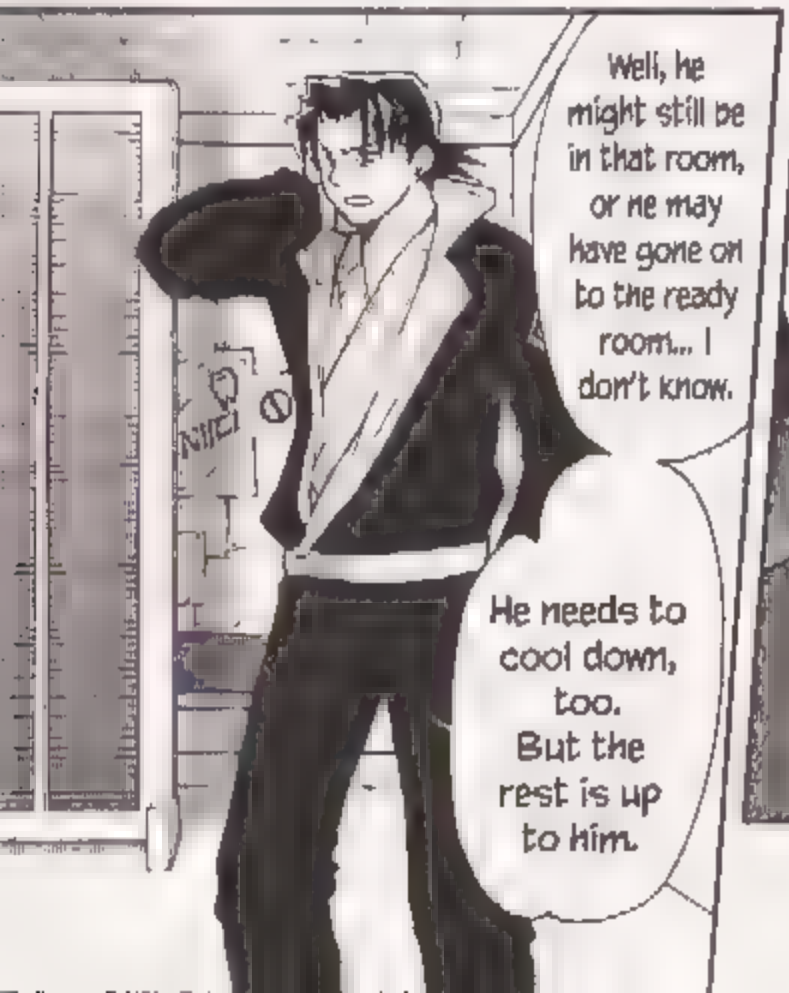
...what to do now.
...I don't know...
Finding out now that I have a different enemy...
If you really want to fight him, get that leg looked at and fixed!
You get yourself to the infirmary ASAP as well!
...and order the others to keep what they saw to themselves, too.
I'll pretend none of us were here today...
Well, I'll swallow one of your conditions.


I... I would wait until Sakuraba-san gets here...
I really can't unwrap him?

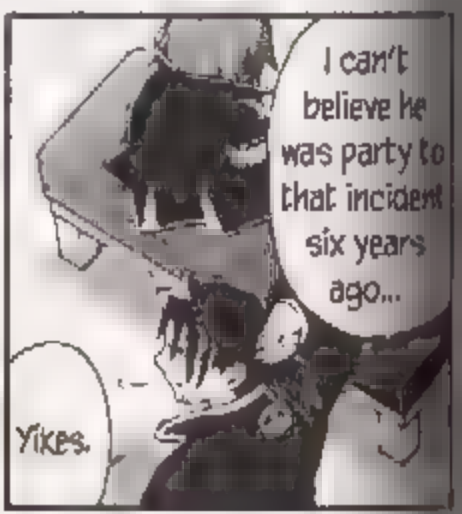

...This is so bother-some.

I told Yukimura everything I know.
...Now for this one.

Saku-raba-san!!
You can take it off. He's probably cooled down already

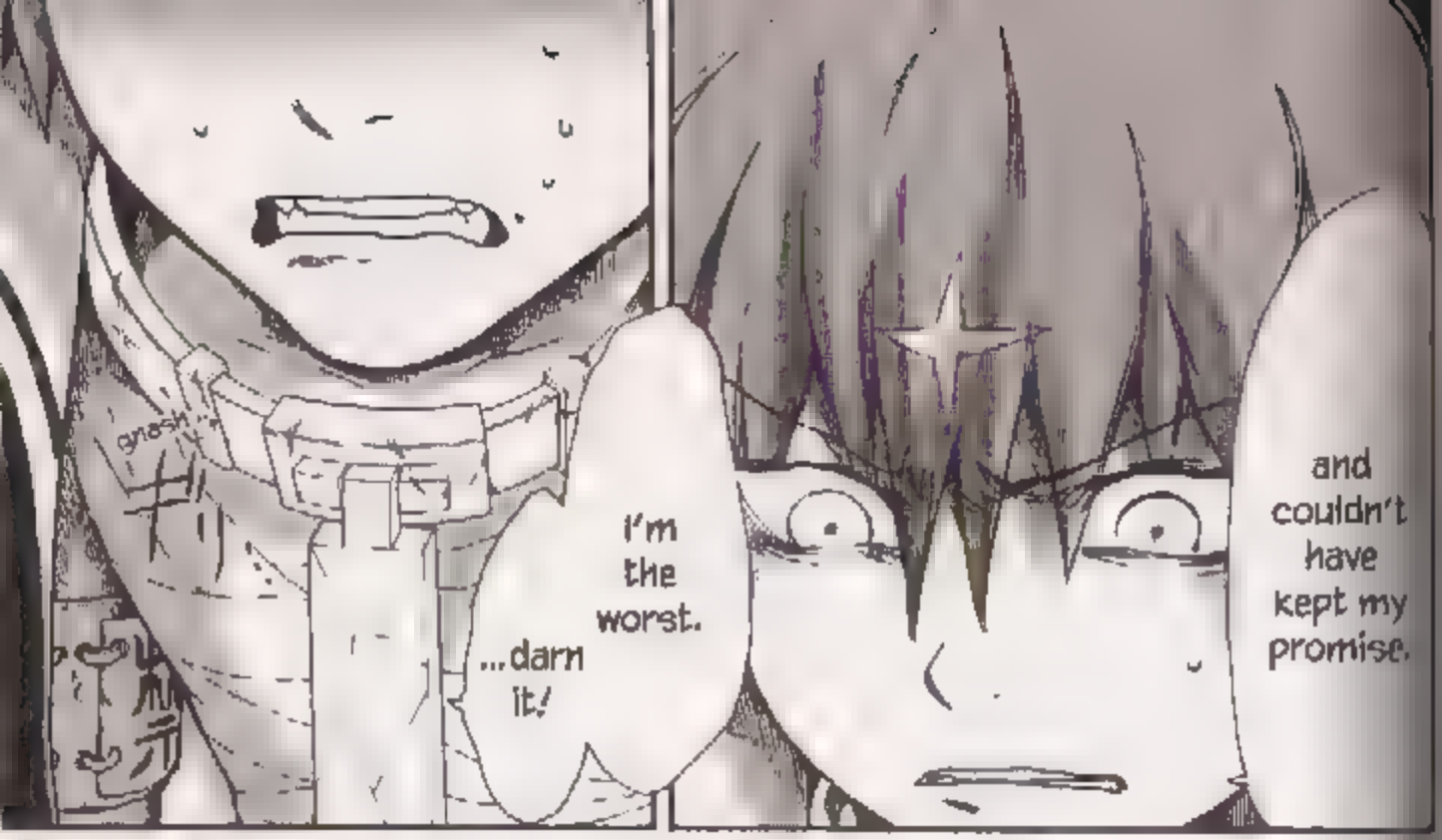

Well, he might still be in that room, or he may have gone on to the ready room... I don't know.
He needs to cool down, too. But the rest is up to him.

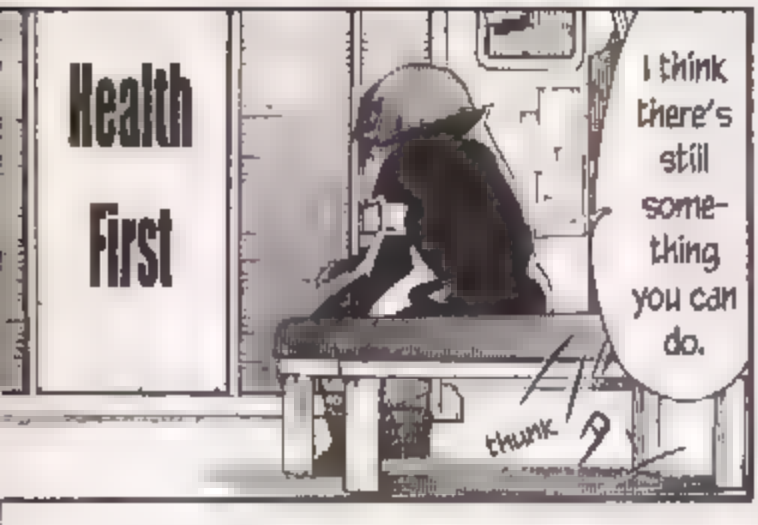
Um, Sakuraba-san... where's Yukimura-kun?

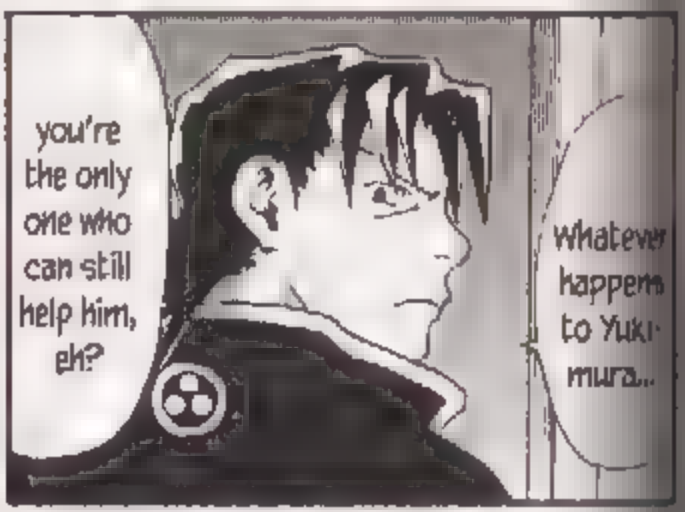

I can't believe he was party to that incident six years ago...
Yikes.

He might resign.

silence
I'll get going, then.
...I see.
Thanks...
If I hadn't jumped in and intervened, you...
What, you're still sulking!?
!
I was about to lose control of the Eye...
clench...
But then... if you hadn't shown up when you had...
I was in a bad spot...
Even if I couldn't reveal it all, I was going to convince him to stay and continue working as a VIUS as well.
...but I'd been planning to resolve things with Yukimura properly.
Since I was the instigator.


and couldn't have kept my promise.
I'm the worst.
...darn it!
gnash

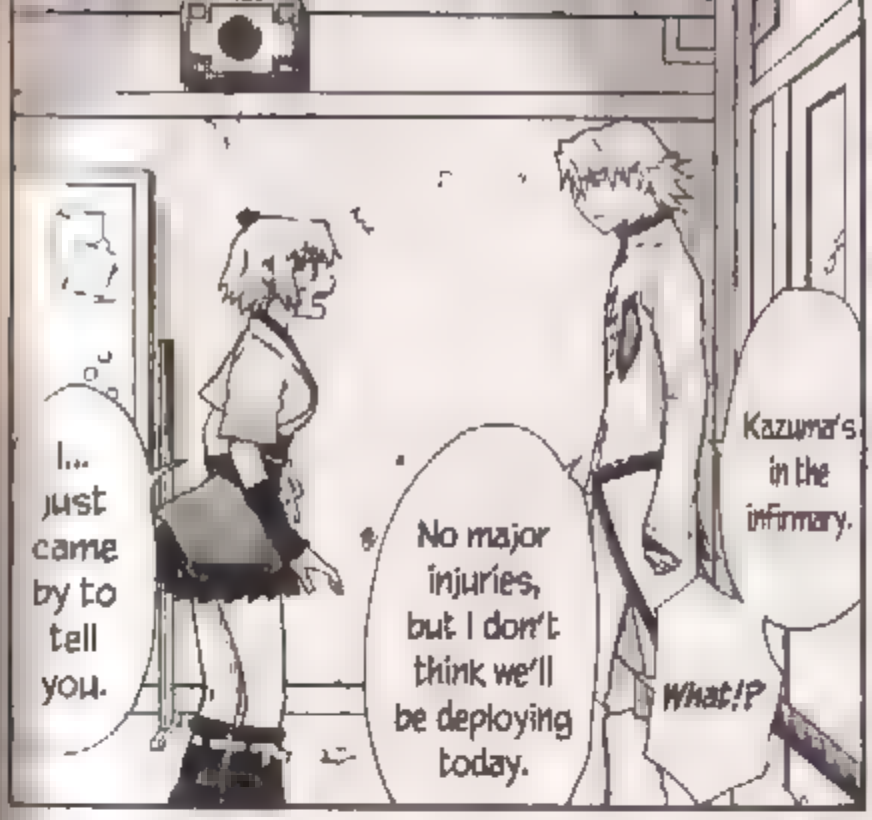

Health First
I think there's still something you can do.
thunk


you're the only one who can still help him, eh?
Whatever happens to Yukimura...

!
Issa-kun...
clatter

They're too late to have merely overslept...
I wonder what happened to the two of them...

Sheesh. Can't tell if they're adults or kids.


I... just came by to tell you.
No major injuries, but I don't think we'll be deploying today.
Kazuma's in the infirmary.
What!?

Leila...
!
Sôsei-san?!

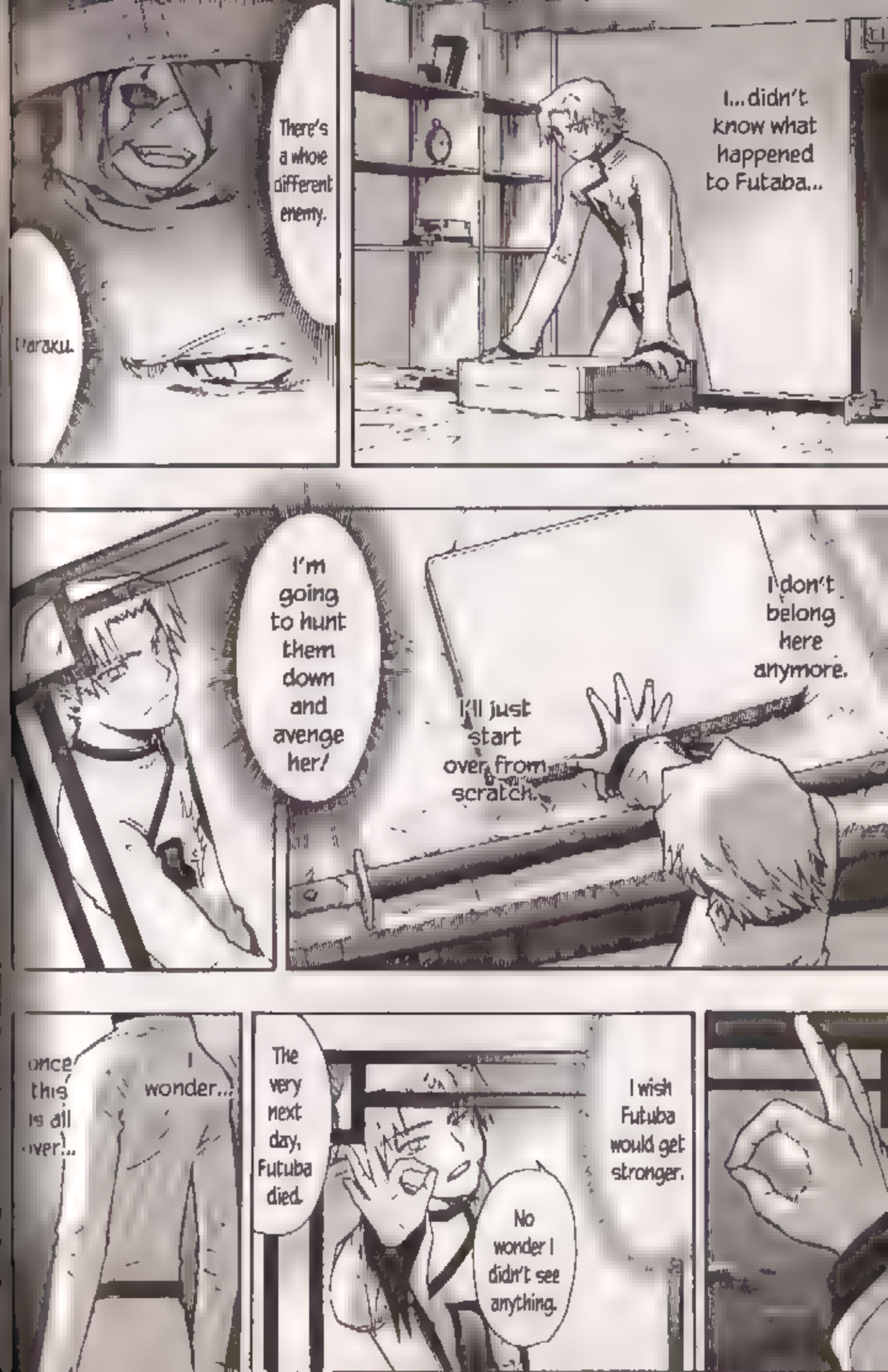
See you later.
I'm sorry. We always keep you waiting.

Sôsei-san, you're injured, too.
Yeah, I'm also taking a sick day today.

And I thought we were all getting along! Oh, man!
No way... and why the two of them?

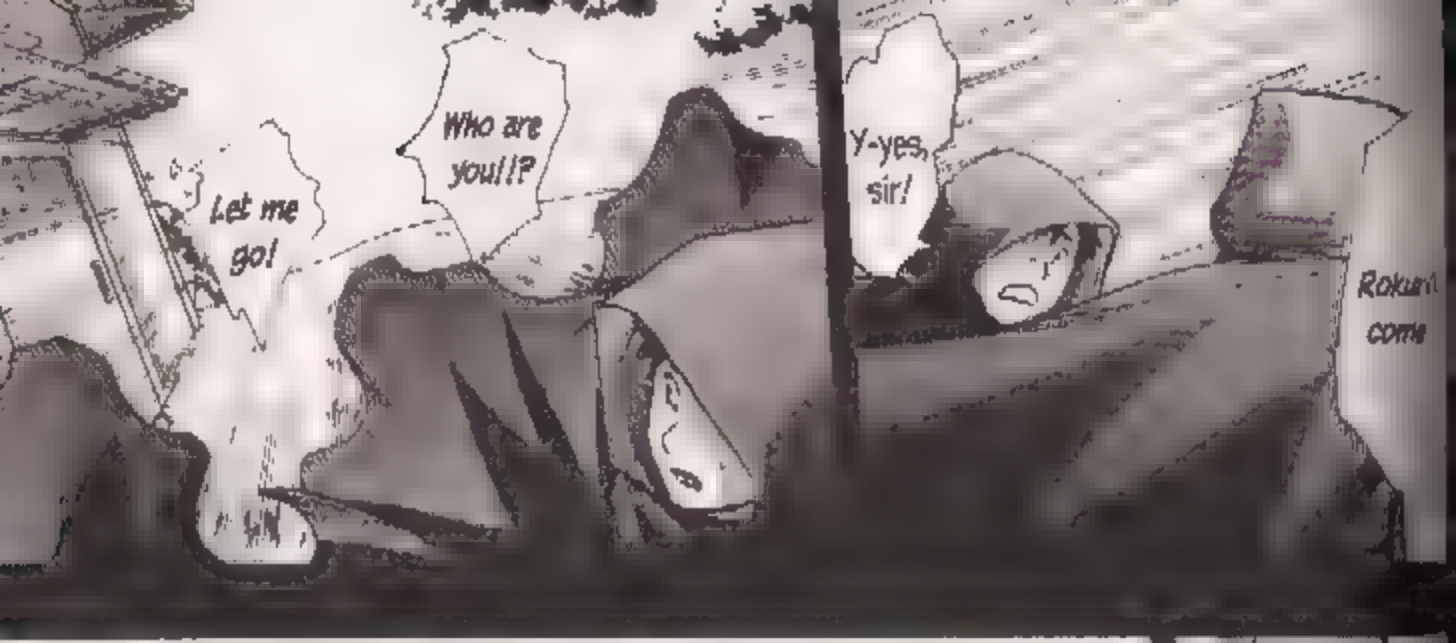
Injuries? What happened?
Don't tell me... they fought?

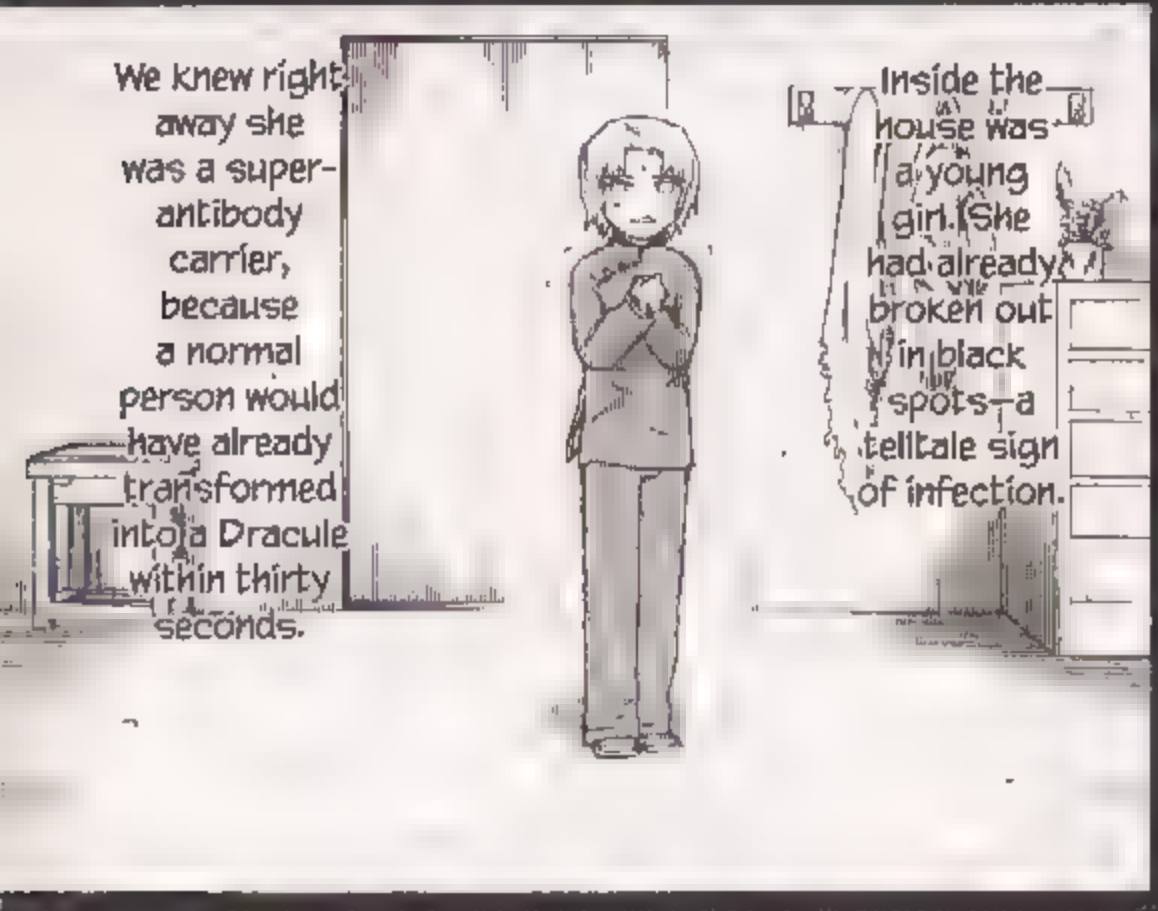
Southwest Thoroughfare
But, don't see anything.
Me neither... maybe the sun's not bright enough today!
and if your wish is going to come true, she said you'll see the future.
Hold your fingers up to the sun like this and make a wish...
Hey, Sôsei! Auntie taught me this magic charm!

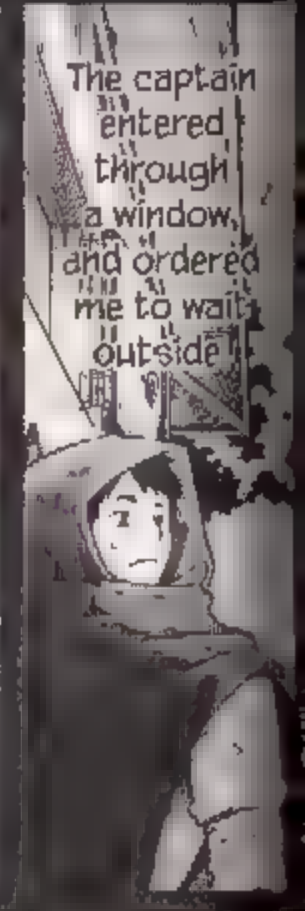

There's a whole different enemy.
Paraku.
I...didn't know what happened to Futaba...
I'm going to hunt them down and avenge her!
I'll just start over from scratch.
I don't belong here anymore.
once this is all over...
I wonder...
The very next day, Futuba died.
No wonder I didn't see anything.
I wish Futuba would get stronger.

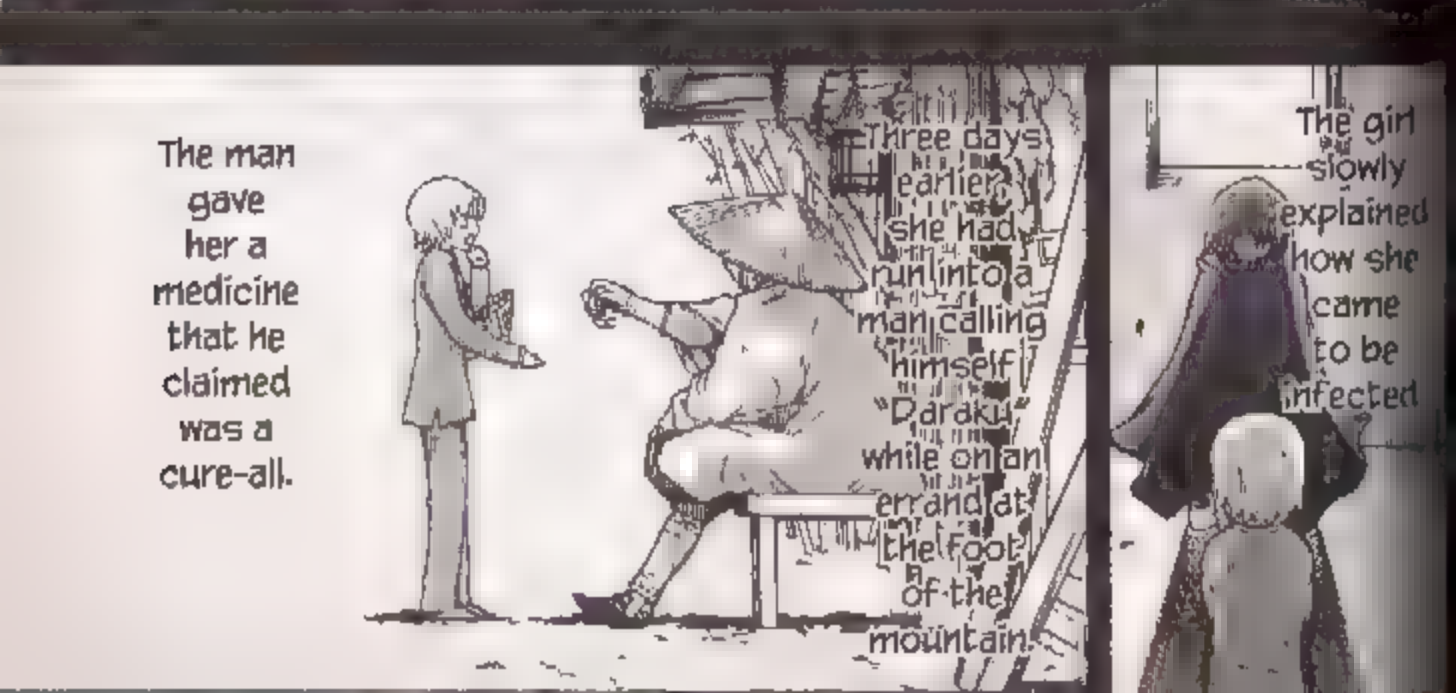
...start over as a VIUS as well.
...if I'll be able to...
Uh...
Um...
Who goes there!
...Wh-what?!
I was one of the squad members on that mission.
There's something I must tell you... about the incident six years ago...
If you have something to say to me, show yourself...
You're leavin VIUS!

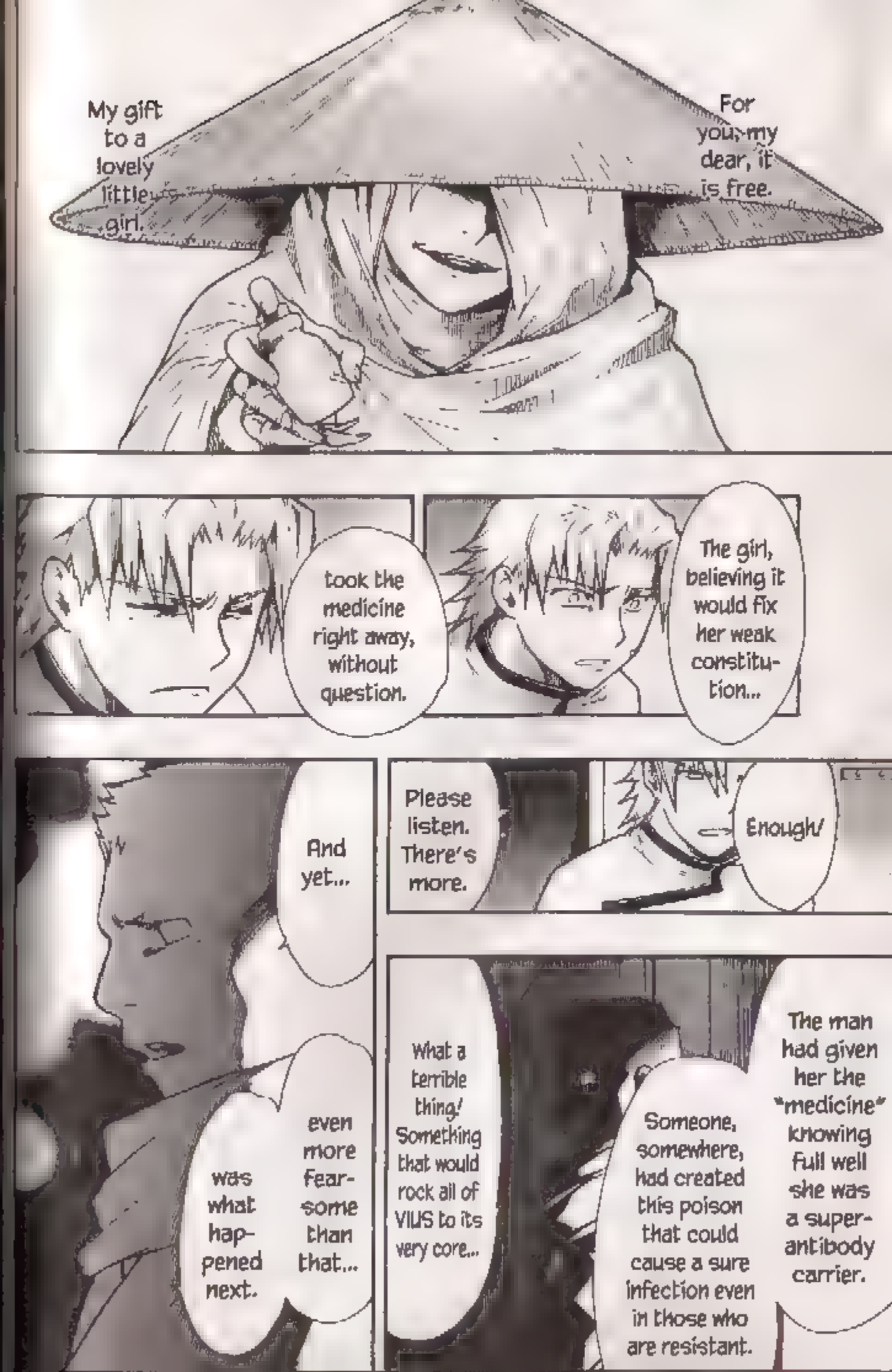
What about your sister?
I know all about the "medicine"!! And about Daraku!!
But I've already heard all I need to! I don't know who you are, but just go!!
so please, listen to it for me.
I had once sworn never to tell anyone this tale...
So that's her name. I never knew, all these years.
What about Futaba?
to that village...
That day... we went there after receiving the message...


Let me go!
Who are you!?
Y-yes, sir!
Roku-san come


We knew right away she was a super-antibody carrier, because a normal person would have already transformed into a Dracule within thirty seconds.
Inside the house was a young girl. She had already broken out in black spots—a telltale sign of infection.


The captain entered through a window, and ordered me to wait outside.


The man gave her a medicine that he claimed was a cure-all.
Three days earlier, she had run into a man calling himself "Daraku" while on an errand at the foot of the mountain.
The girl slowly explained how she came to be infected


My gift to a lovely little girl.
For you, my dear, it is free.
took the medicine right away, without question.
The girl, believing it would fix her weak constitution...
And yet...
was what happened next.
even more Fearsome than that...
Please listen. There's more.
Enough!
What a terrible thing! Something that would rock all of VIUS to its very core...
Someone, somewhere, had created this poison that could cause a sure infection even in those who are resistant.
The man had given her the "medicine" knowing full well she was a super-antibody carrier.

I'm so sorry, but as mandated by VIUS law...
However, now that you're infected, there is no way to stop you from turning into a Dracule.
We must investigate at once.
If what you said is true, it's a huge problem.
"All infected individuals must be annihilated."
You will at least... lose your fear of death...
we can wait until you become a Dracule.
Once you turn Dracule, your human awareness will cease to exist.
If that is too frightening for you.

There's... no way she could choose!
She's so young...
Is he out of his mind!!?
H-he's asking her how she wants to die!?
Human!!
And to mention annihilation... she's still human!
!?
Can you keep all this a secret?!
Please!
R..

Sôsei, my twin brother, is a brilliant swordsman...
But because I am always sick, and we are so poor to begin with,
he works day and night to earn what he can to pay for my medicines.
Because of me, he doesn't have time to train... or any other freedom...
My brother is a super-antibody carrier, just like me. I know he could even become a great warrior some day.
He is meant to be celebrated for his talent.
The VIUS even offered him a scholarship!
He's already sacrificed enough
A path full of sunlight awaits him...!
But... if it goes on record that he had an infected family member...
that path will be closed off!!

However, your case is an exception...
Who would believe this story!?
Or else one could not battle Dracules directly.
You are correct. "One must have such strong antibodies that not a single family member has ever become infected" is an absolute condition of VIUS eligibility.
That's what I thought. I never imagined it was a poison laced with the D Virus.
IF I got better, Sôsei would be free!
When I met that apothecary, I leapt at his words: "Your illness will be cured!!"
But... most of all...
How could he do such a thing...!? And what for...!!?
And so... I completely fell for it...

My foolishness will close off his path...
I can't stand it any more!!!
...that my stupid actions will hold Sôsei back again...
That's the worst part!!
All right.
...even from Sôsei!!
Let all this be a secret...
So please, report that I "was killed by Dracules"!

Very well.
One... last thing.
Sōsei will be fine without this house.
And after I'm... dead...
set this place on fire to burn up all the evidence.
before I turn.
So could you please... kill me...
I... don't want to... become a Dracule...
Sure.
!!
tremble
tremble

flap
thud
thud
thud
thud

th"
shudder
th"
shudder

It'll all be OK...
Don't worry.

my wish...
I can see it...
Yup.
Yup.
Sôsei... will become a warrior...
I... I'm fine now... I know... my dream will come true...
Thank you.

But he's borne that burden, all by himself.
I could never bear such a burden.
It's too much for the average psyche.
...so I don't think she suffered.
I've heard that an expert can end a life in an instant...
And since that day, I've withdrawn from the front lines.
It was then that I realized I wasn't meant for this line of work.
She truly wanted that.
Your sister's greatest wish was that you become a warrior... and find happiness.
And going forward, too...
And I'm sure she wasn't the first or last one...
WHOOO

.....
...all right.

Discharge Request
click
click
click
click
click
click

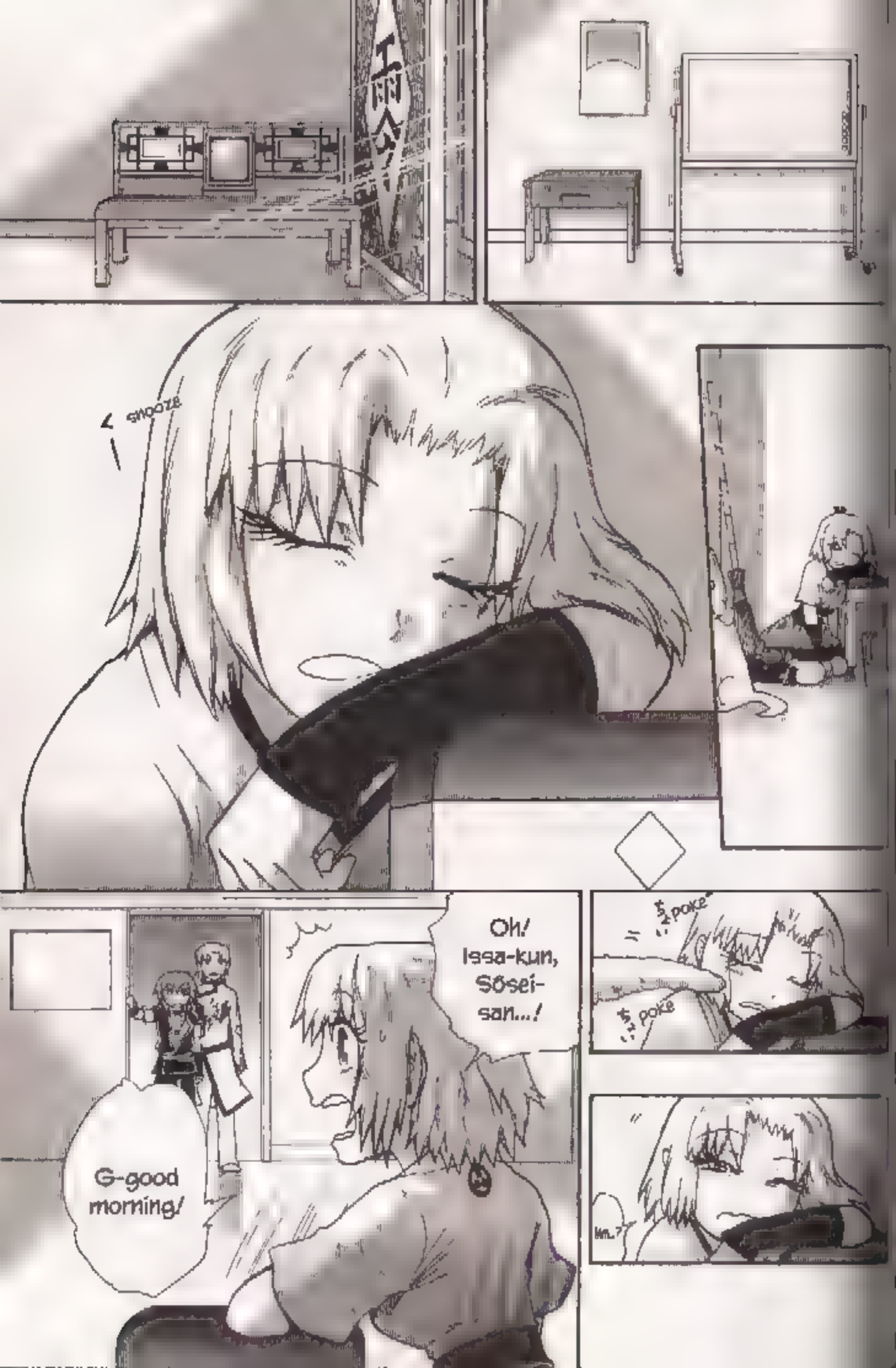
Business Office Four
I'll go out and settle things first, and then start over again, here...
In order to honor Futaba's memory, I can't stay here when I'm only halfhearted.
Huh?
Hey, I heard that you've finally made your decision!
Aah, Yukimura!
Sakuraba-san.
thump
thump
Hun?
Please keep supporting Issa, OK!!?
I'm so glad!! It makes me relieved to know that you'll be over there!
I accept your Squad Zero official transfer request!
He knows I want to resign? Was it Kazuma?
I guess it's to be expected.
Well, that makes this easier. Please give this discharge request to the elder vice-director...

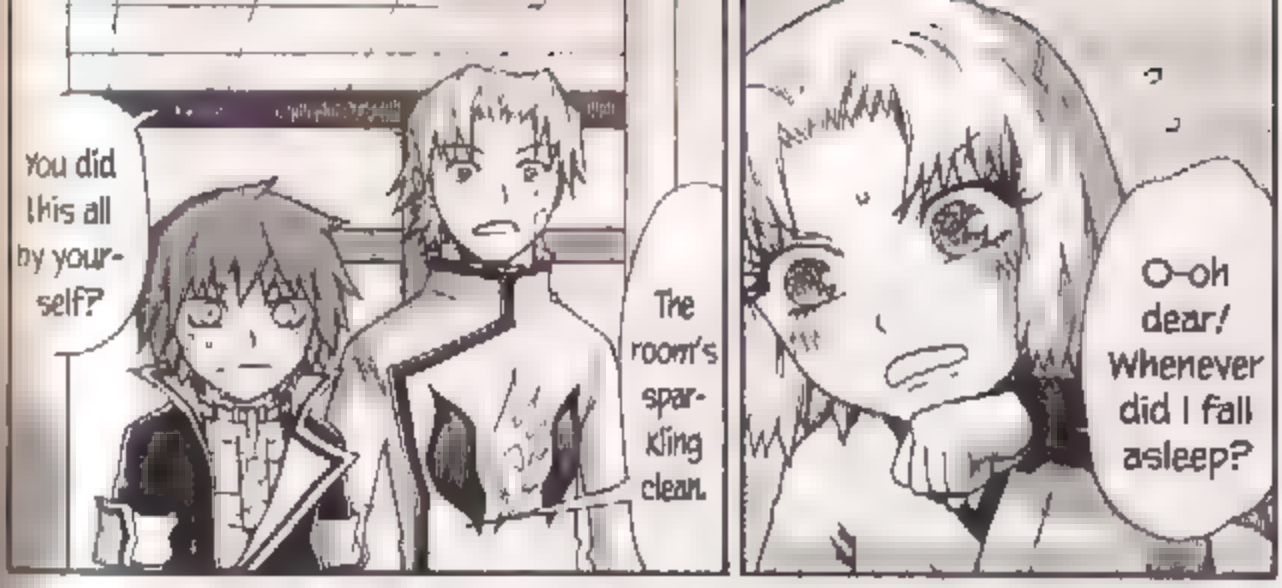
Issa took care of the paperwork personally.
?
No!
I want...
Huh? A transfer?
Transfer!?
Kazuma!!
Don't tell me Issa...
I think there's still something you can do.
Huh? That wasn't it?
Yo! Your leg seems better!
They told me to rest too, but I just couldn't stay still.
PUNK
PUNK

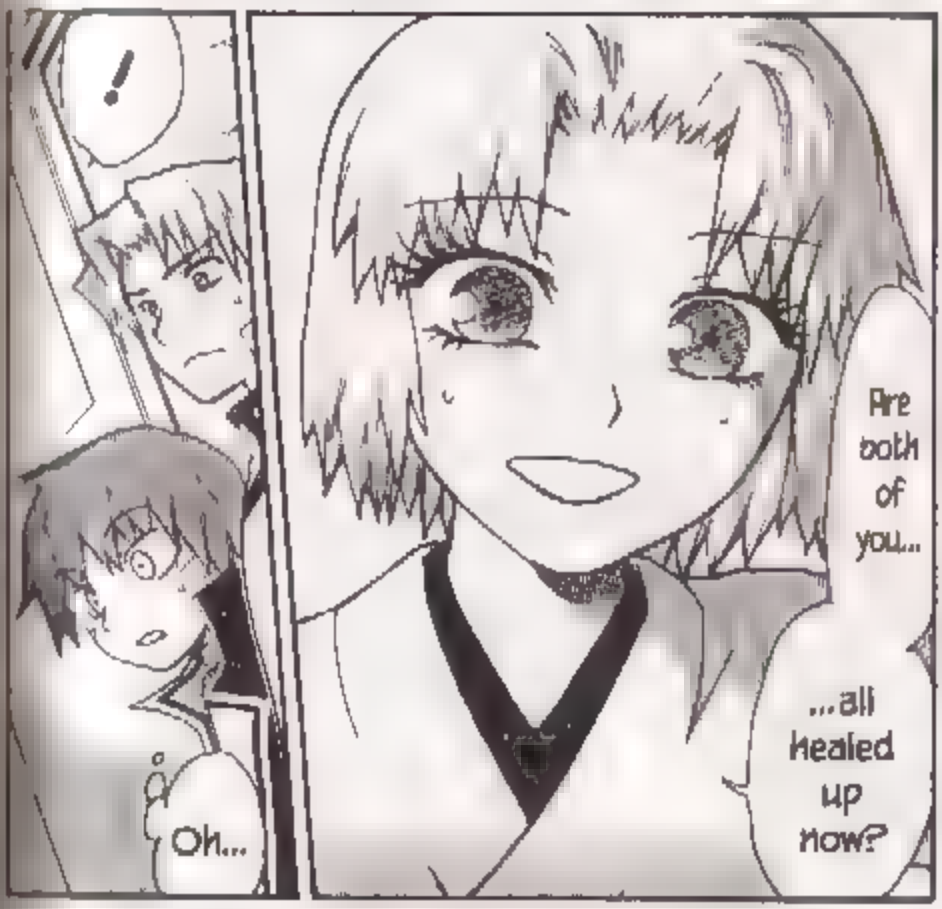
I drew my blade against you!! Against you, a squad captain!!
Don't "oh, you heard?" me!!
Oh, you heard?
How dare you transfer me to your squad!?
What do you think you're doing!? How could you...
Take it back!! I'm resigning!!
I'm not planning to bother you anymore, either!!
Are you stupid?!!
Making enemies left and right!
!!
.....
Give me a break.
You shouldn't resign.
You're pretty stupid too, you know.
I am stupid...
...and I'm not taking it back.

You had one before too, remember?
A different scabbard.
That's why you need the scabbard, such as this organization.
You're like a naked blade.
If you're not in a scabbard, you'll just keep injuring yourself and others and rust away.
'Cuz I'm just like you.
cackle
cackle
cackle
!
Don't act like you know...
But I do.

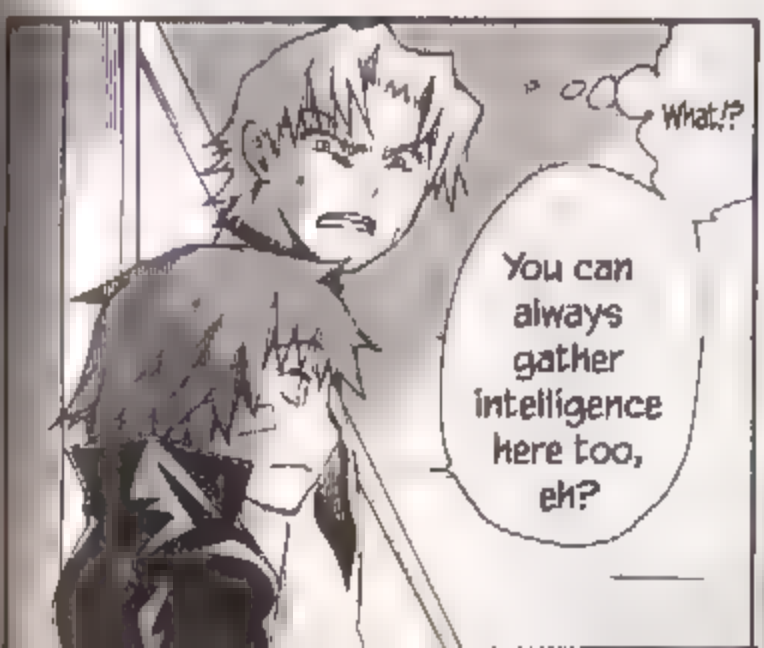
H-hold up!!
She might have grown horns over yesterday's fuss.
We better head over, or else she'll yell at us again.
clatter
Hey, Kazuma!!
!
零


SNOOZE
Oh! Issa-kun, Sōsei-san...!
G-good morning!
poke
poke

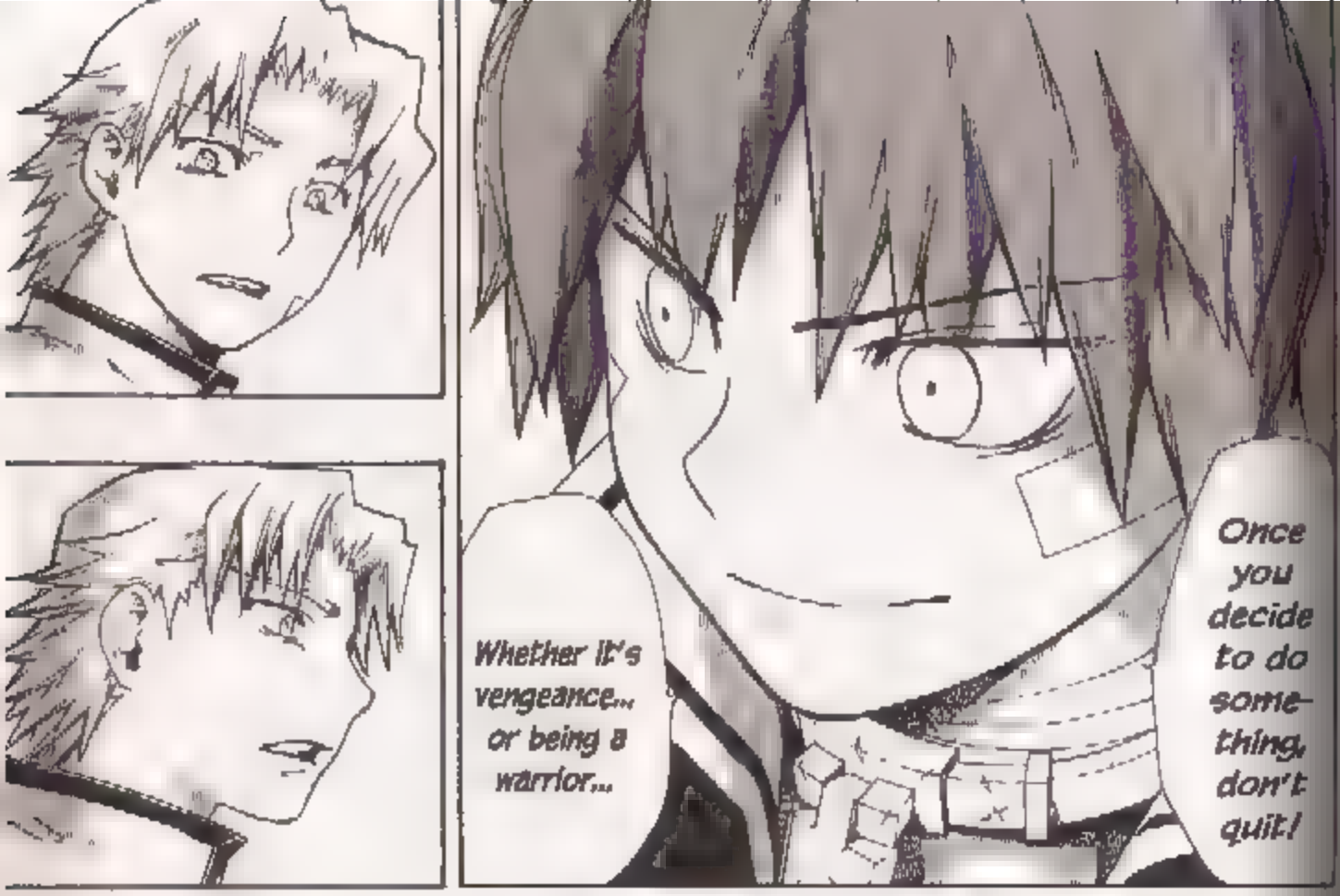

You did this all by yourself?
The room's sparkling clean.
O-oh dear! Whenever did I fall asleep?

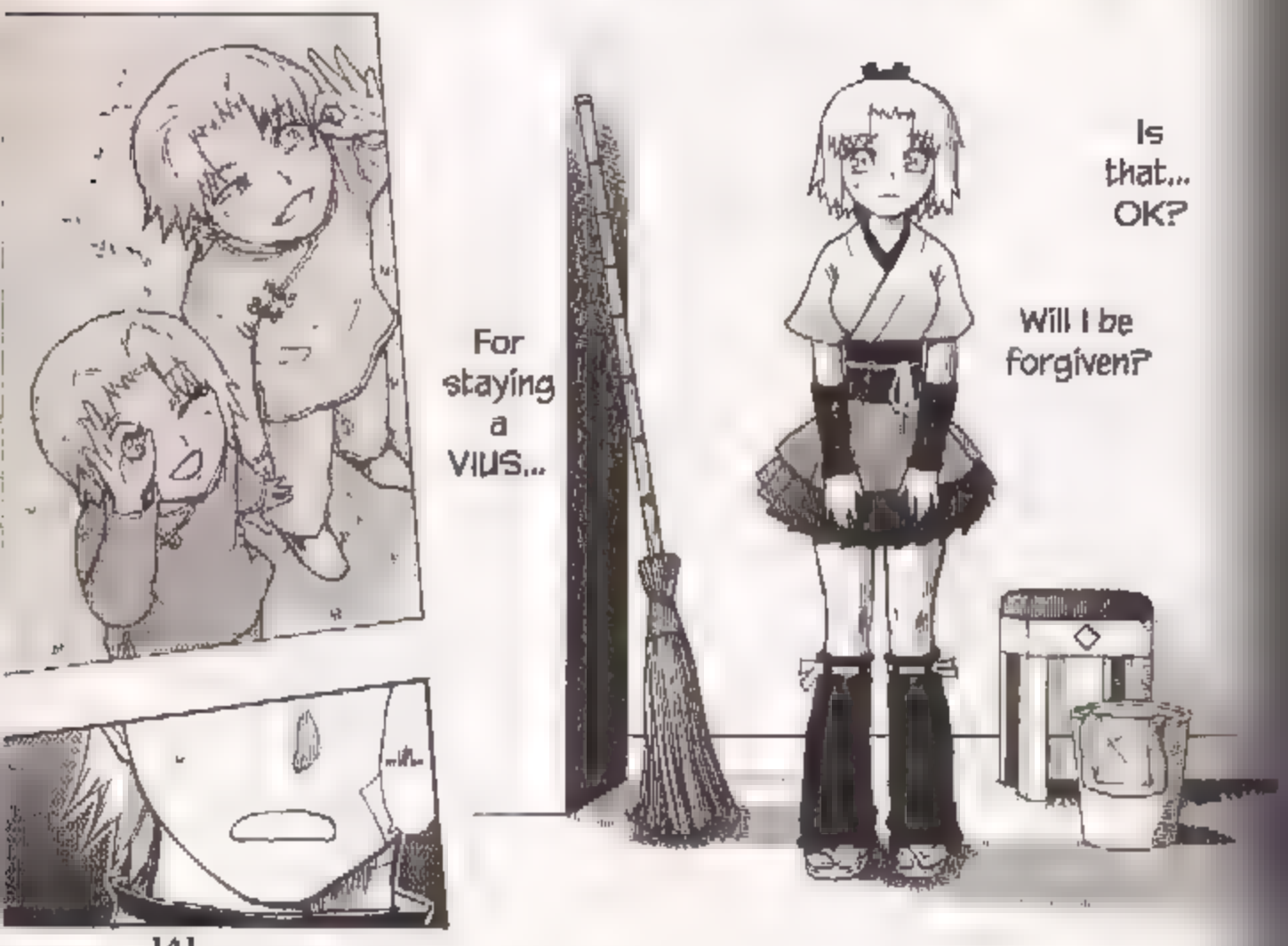

!
Oh...
Are both of you...
...all healed up now?

Oh... hee hee. I happened to wake up early, and...
Well... um...


What!?
You can always gather intelligence here too, eh?

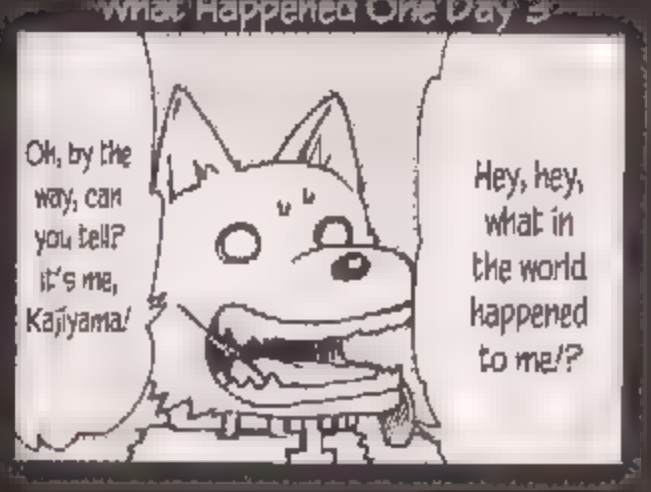
!!


Whether it's vengeance... or being a warrior...
Once you decide to do something, don't quit!

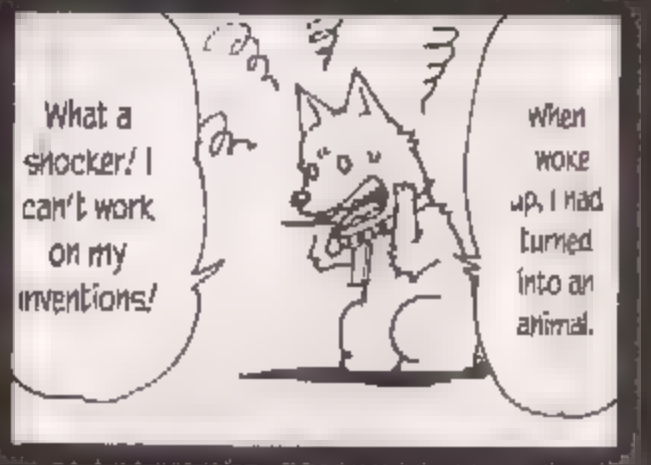

For staying a virus...
Will I be forgiven?
Is that... OK?

Um...
Starting today, I'm officially... Squad Zero member...
Yukimura Sôsei.
Hope we keep working well together, Leila.

H-how could you tell?
ぴょん
leap
Mikami-chan, is that you?


Oh, by the way, can you tell? it's me, Kajiyama!
Hey, hey, what in the world happened to me!?

Wh-what is it?! What more is there?!!
Mikami-chan, I've got to warn you about something.
Huh?
So Mikami-chan's stuck inside my body...


What a shocker! I can't work on my inventions!
When woke up, I had turned into an animal.

so be careful when you go to the bathroom.
I've got hemorrhoids right now...

Oh!

Sorry!
Noooooooo!!

That's a rather surreal question. How should answer it?
Mr. Dog!! Have you seen Kajiyama-san?!

Yes!

D
RAYGON
6
KAIAI
FUJIYAMA

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

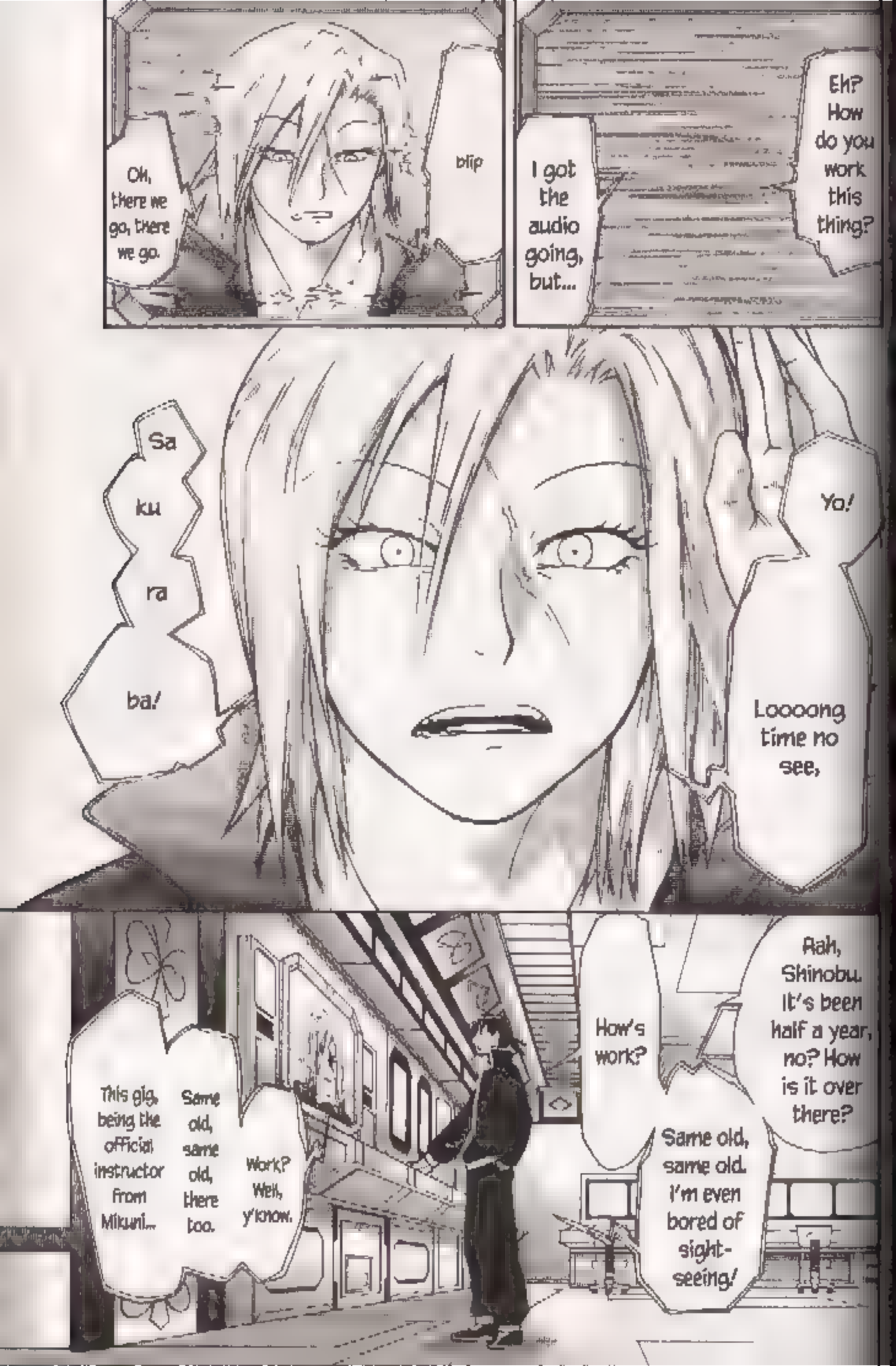
Mission ⓪ Sixteen
It's No Big Deal!!
5

Mission ⓪ Seventeen
Fight!!
57

Mission ⓪ Eighteen
Formalities
97

Mission ⓪ Nineteen
I Haven't Heard Anything About Becoming Captain Delegate!
149

Extras
190


Oh, there we go, there we go.
blip
I got the audio going, but...
Eh? How do you work this thing?
Sa
ku
ra
ba!
Yo!
Loooong time no see,
Aah, Shinobu. It's been half a year, no? How is it over there?
How's work?
Same old, same old. I'm even bored of sight-seeing!
This gig, being the official instructor from Mikuni...
Same old, same old, there too.
Work? Well, y'know.

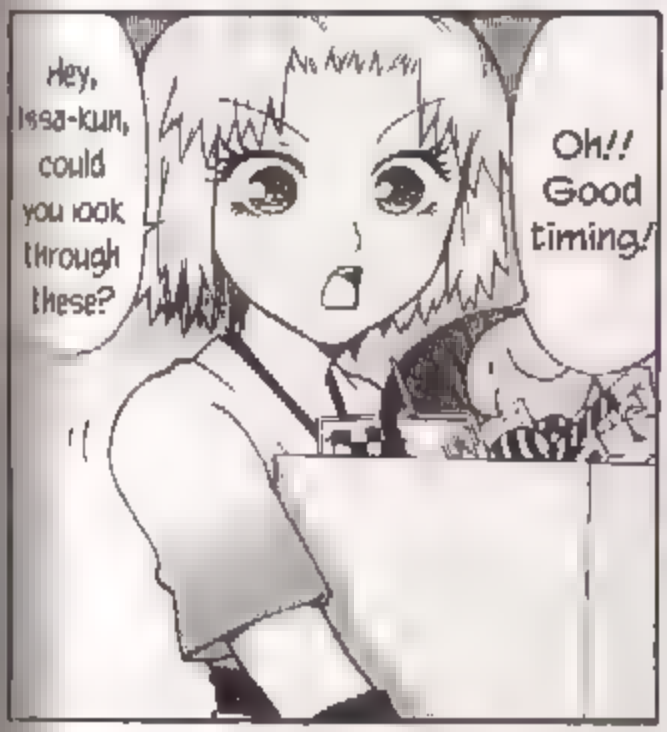
S...sir,
One more time, please?
There don't seem to be any fellows with real spirit here, y'know.
I mean, we're even in the middle of training right now, but...
It's kinda ho-hum.
It was real fun in the beginning, total party mood, but now, after six months...
Queen City isn't anything to write home about, either.
puff
cackle cackle
You're so ob-stinate.
Thank you, sir
Oh, give me a sec, will ya?
thwack
clod
crack
I sup-pose... in any case, don't come home, all right?
Ah, right, right. I hear you're inviting heads of state this year? Pretty extravagant, huh?
Oh and also, our usual exhibition tourna-ment is coming up soon.
Nah, just wanted to see how you were doing.
So wazup?

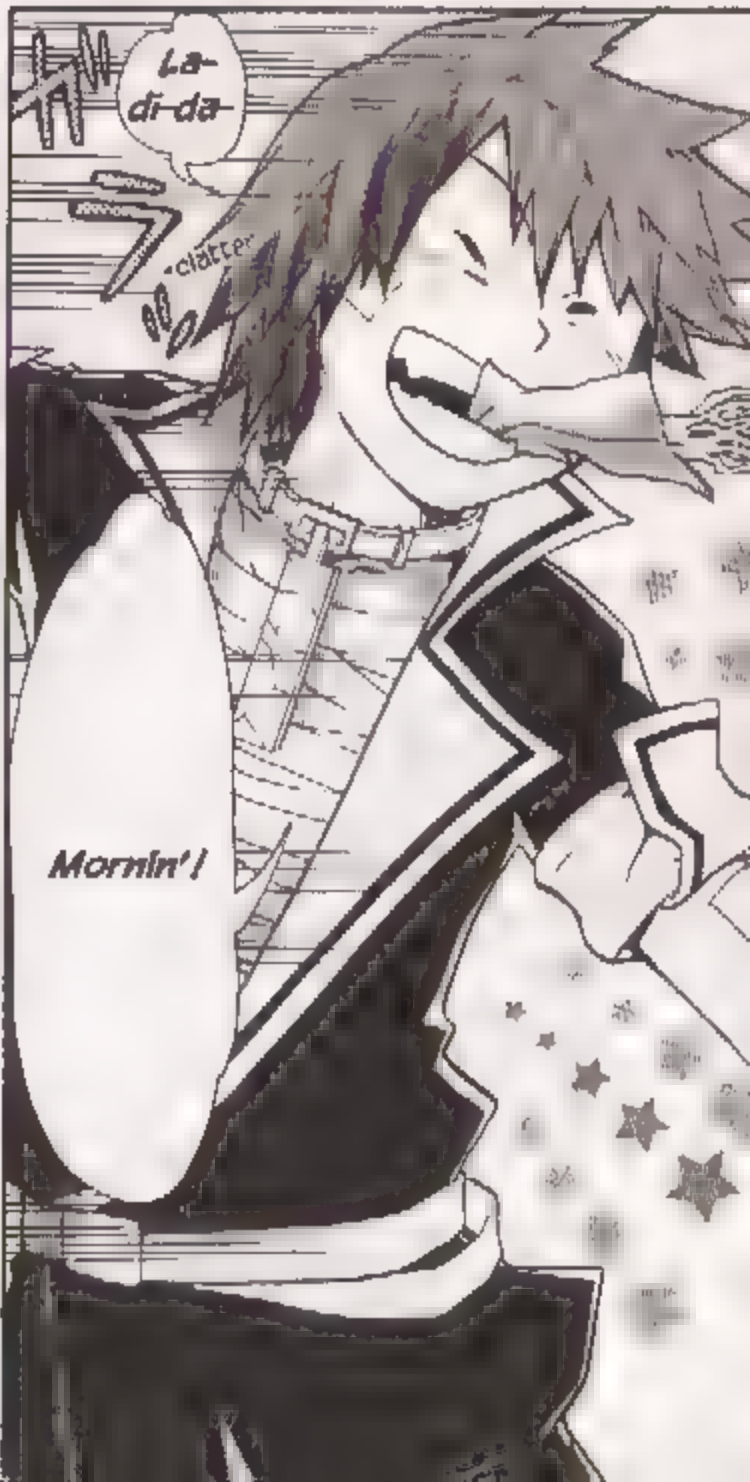
You're vile!
Huh? You called just to drive the nail in?
You forget your duties very easily! I'm just telling you there's no spot for you even if you do come!
I'm not coming, OK! I have no interest in kiddy games.
Though... if the old Squad Zero captain were to enter...
It would be a whole different story.
Pinch
...you better tell me!
If you hear any rumors about Squad Zero resurrecting...
Quit echoing me, weirdo.
Yeah, true enough. Well, there's no way the *old* Squad Zero captain could enter, anyhow, so!
But if I did tell you, it would cause a huge to-do.
bzip

Mission ○ Nineteen

I Haven't Heard Anything About Becoming Captain Delegate!

The food's real yummy... And there's lots of cute chicks.
Mikuni's a good place. You ought to come once.
La-di-da-


Hey, Issa-kun, could you look through these?
Oh!! Good timing!

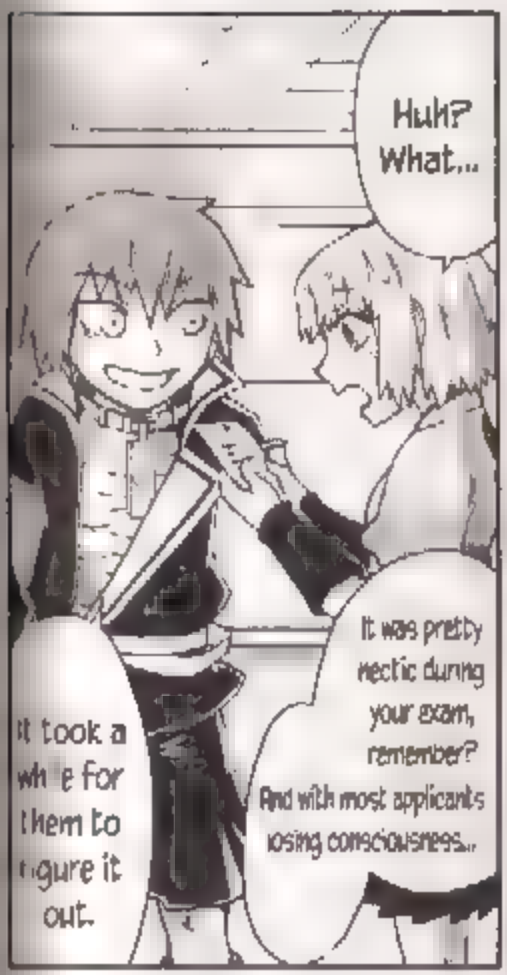

La-di-da-
clatter
Mornin'!

It's all your stuff, Issa-kun. I'd like to throw it out!?
Hmm? How nice of you, but what are they?
Excuse me? This is the trash from yesterday's cleaning!

What's so precious about them?! It's all junk!
What?
ばっ snatch
No way!! They're all my treasures!!
What, throw it out!?
clunk thunk
zip
clatter
No! Stop it!
Please don't reclutter the room I spent all night cleaning!
Now throw it out!!
Good morning.
.....Morning.

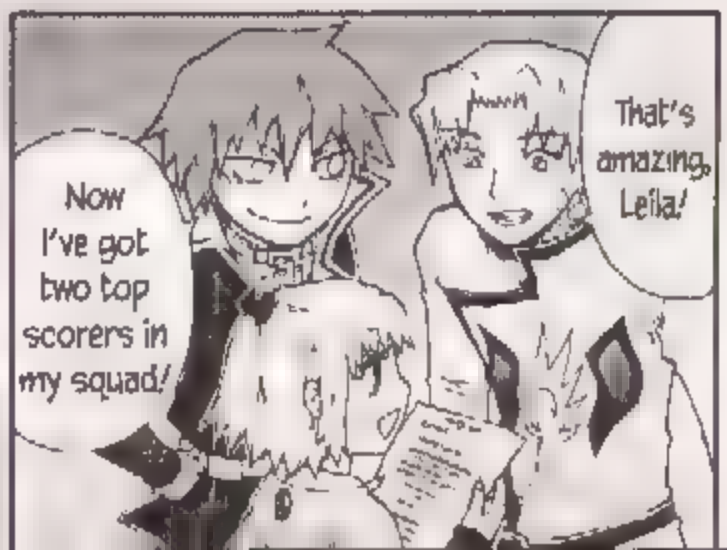
?
ta-daa
And this is for you, Leila!

We haven't been scheduled any missions yet today, so we're on standby.
Now that we're all here, I have an announcement!


Huh? What...
It was pretty hectic during your exam, remember? And with most applicants losing consciousness...
It took a while for them to figure it out.

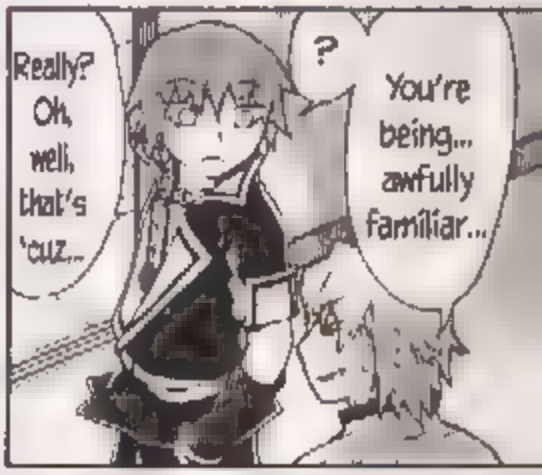
Top scorer!?
...The above individual is hereby named top scorer on the 38th VIUS enlistment examination.

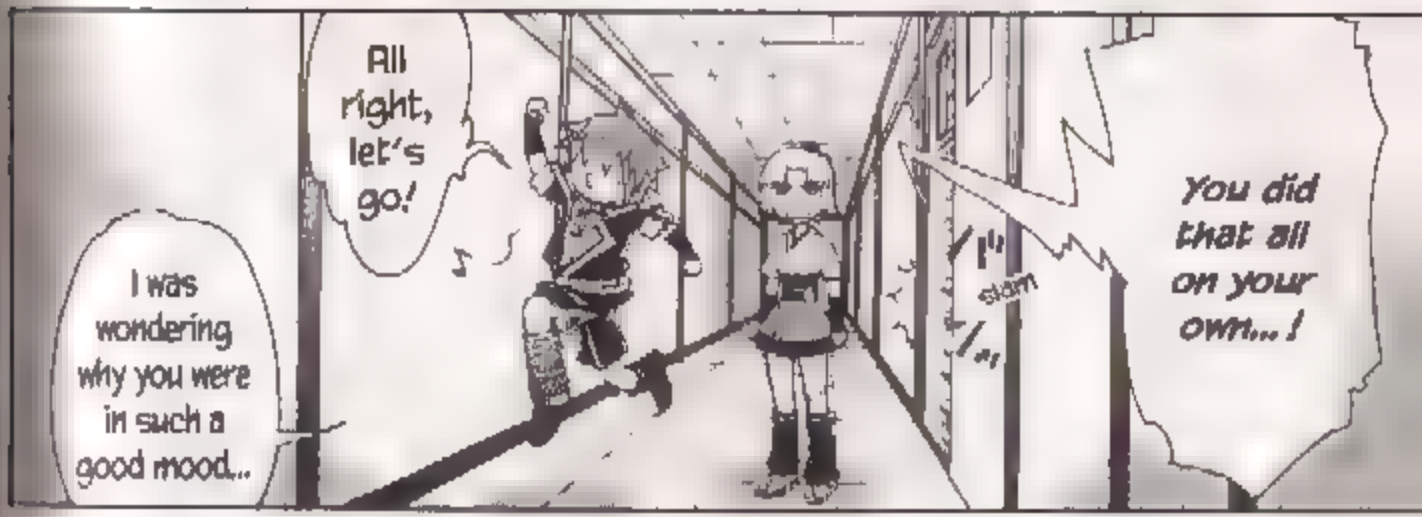
Yeah... that's right, I guess we're a year apart in terms of enlistment.
Huh? You too, Sōsei-san?


Now I've got two top scorers in my squad!
That's amazing, Leila!

So Leila, they're going to send you a special uniform,
so go get yourself measured.
They should be able to finish it in a week, so it'll be in time for the competition.
Competition...?
The annual exhibition tournament.
Newbies aren't often selected... but top scorers are given a free pass.
I didn't know we had such a thing.
Did you enter last year, Sôsei-san?
No, I declined, so I don't know a whole lot about it, either.
But this tournament, it's mostly veteran VIUS, right?
Just enter since you've got the chance! There's no guarantee you'll be selected next year.
Well, I've got to get myself to the infirmary.
Sôsei, hold down the fort, OK!?

You're my subordinate now, eh?


Really? Oh, well, that's 'cuz...
?
You're being... awfully familiar...


All right, let's go!
I was wondering why you were in such a good mood...
slam
You did that all on your own...!

Issa, you have a minute?
?
I'll just go on ahead.

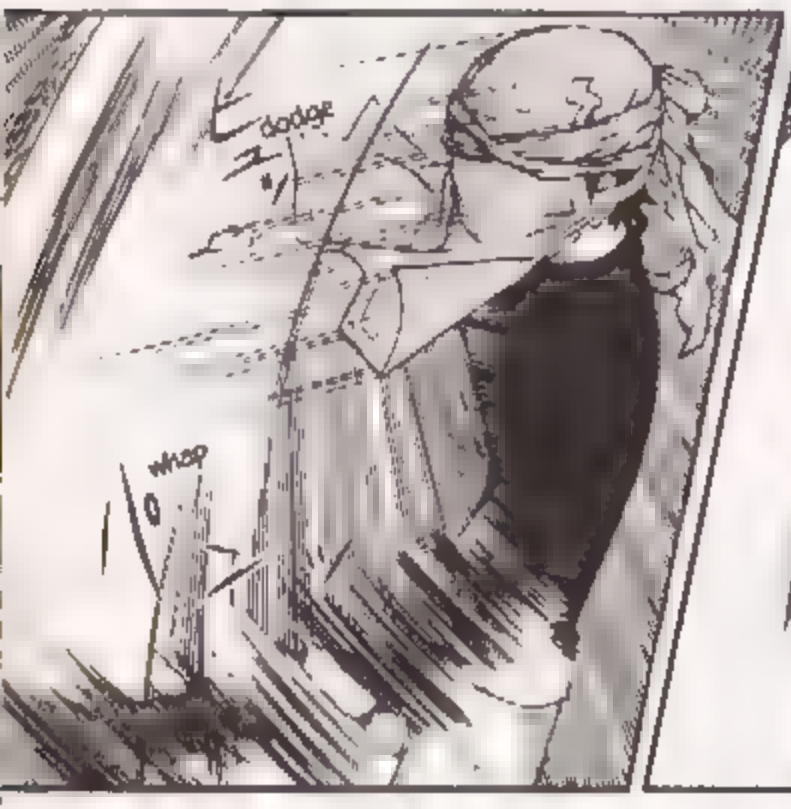
Aah, you've been awarded top scorer, haven't you, Mikami? Congratulations!
Yes! Thank you very much.
Good morning.

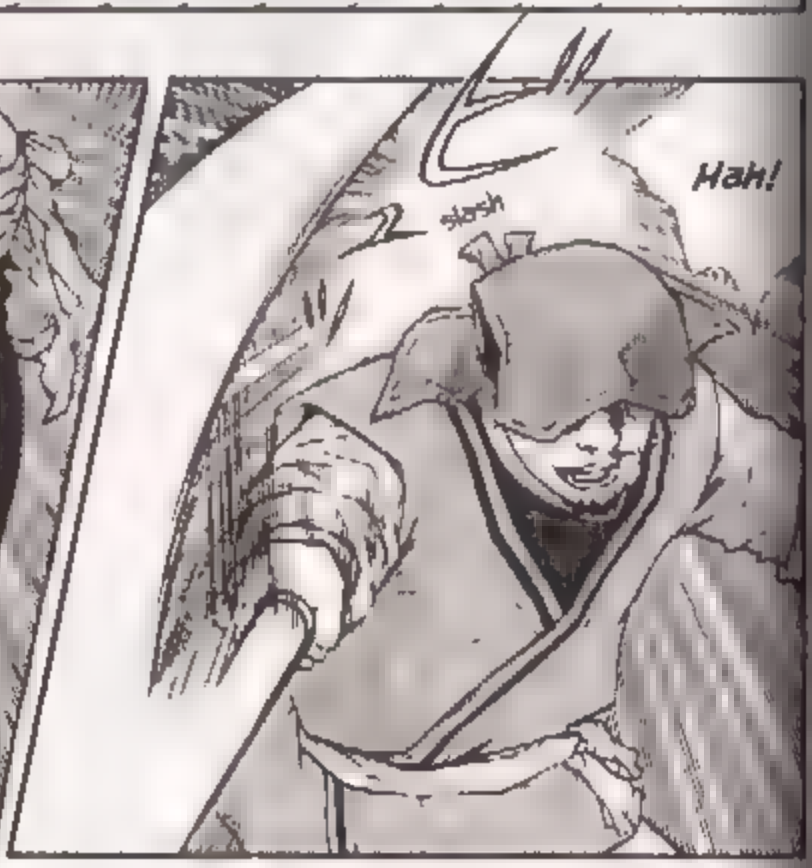
Ah! Good timing.
Huh?

Listen, take my advice and turn them down, OK?
.....
They're probably notifying you that you've been chosen captain delegate.
You've been summoned. Go to the Heavenly Elder's office after the infirmary.
Besides, never't heard anything about it.
Don't worry, you couldn't pay me to enter.
I've got a funny feeling about it. I don't think your selection was a coincidence.
Um...
8th floor, Conference Room 11...
Oh... all right, then...
?
Everyone else is just getting all worked up around me while ignoring me.
As long as he's not entering, I guess it doesn't matter why he was chosen...
I'll be in the infirmary.

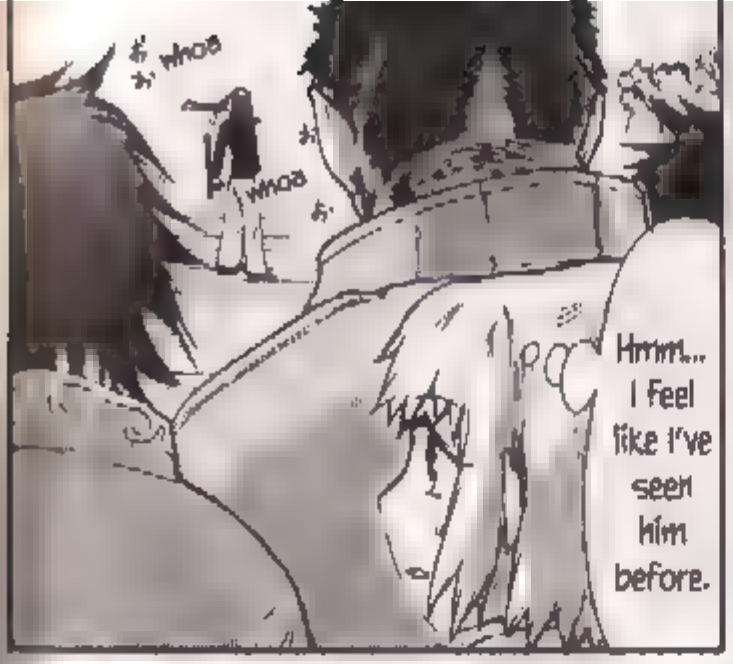
peek
bustle
bustle
roar
What's going on in this training room?
?
bustle
Whoa
bustle
bustle
bustle
That little guy's amazing.
Huh!?
A practice round? What a difference in build, though...

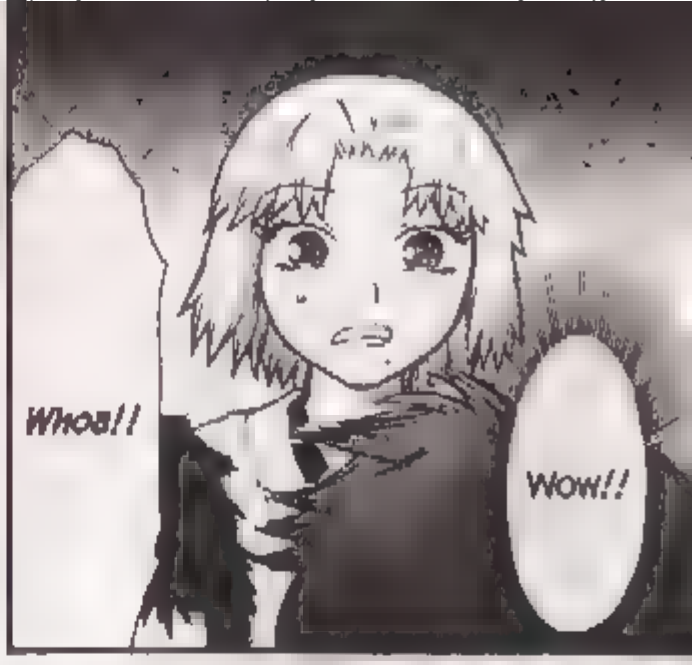
bustle
cheer
cheer
zwish
bustle
cheer
zwish
zwish


dodge
whop


Hah!
slash

buckle...


Whoa
Whoa
Hmm... I feel like I've seen him before.


Whoa!!
Wow!!

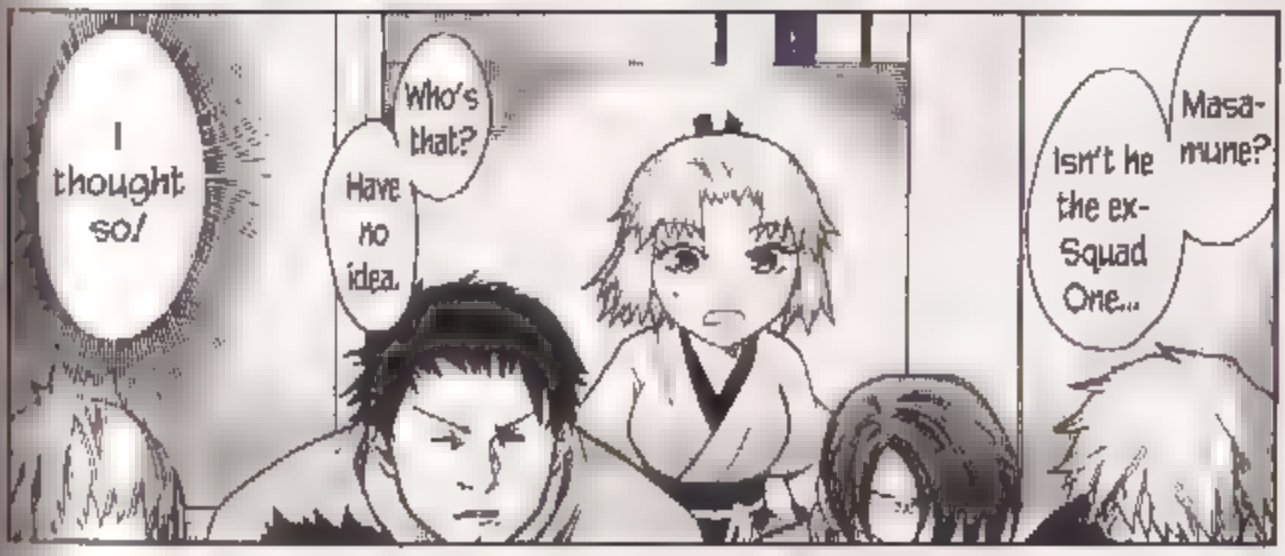
Then what about me?

Hey! Fight me next!!
No, me!
Sorry, I've got a mission.

mutter
mutter
mutter

Yo!
Sharp-edged as always, eh.
Um... who is he?
You don't know Akira? Are you new?
Y-yeah...
Hey, isn't that... Squad One's...
It's Akira!
?!
Which would make him Mikuni's number one warrior!
...but Akira Ryōji is rumored to be the most adept even among them.
Sakuraba's Squad One is famed as Mikuni VIUS's crack unit...

Eh, Masamune?
Long time no see. How's Squad Six treating you?

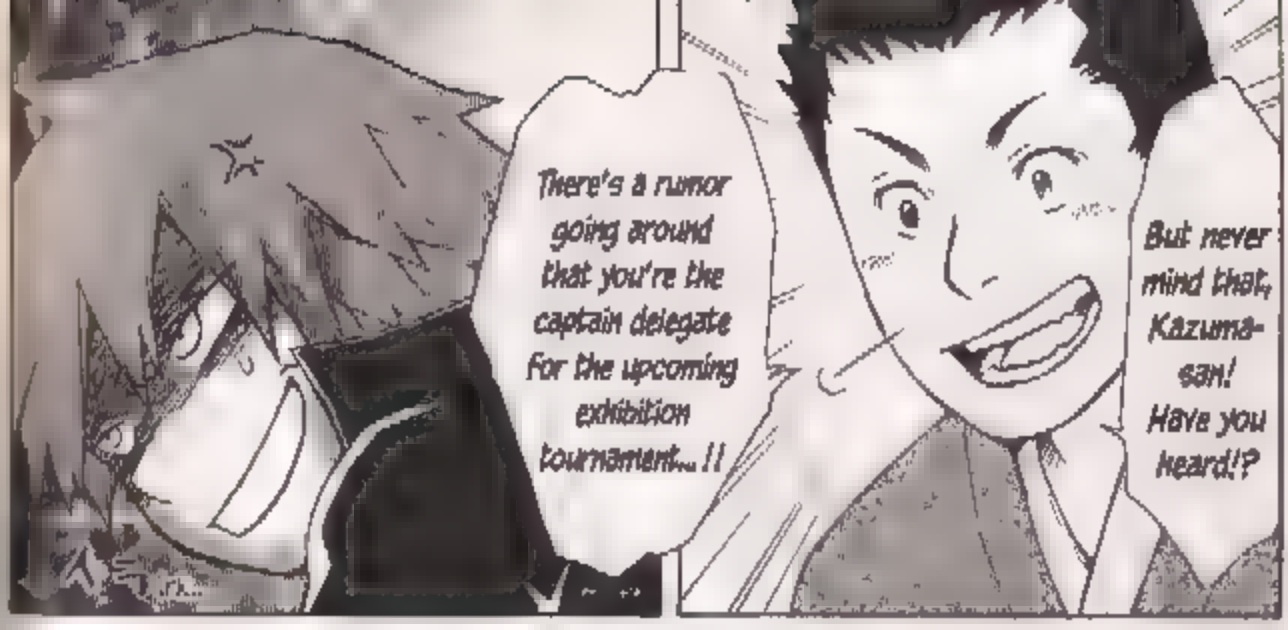

I thought so!
Who's that?
Have no idea.
Masa-mune?
Isn't he the ex-Squad One...

Flip
...feh.

Oh, come on.
I have to head out on a mission.
Can't you hang out a little longer?
Ha ha.
This thing gives me spirit.
You're the same as always, too, Akira-san, armband and all.
Oh, please. You already stand out anyway.
I only fought him because he picked the quarrel with me.
Too much bother afterward.
Sorry, I don't want to stand out.
I'm not like you.
Still hate getting between folks, eh?
Ha ha ha, yeah, you haven't changed.

You'd rather be on top, right?
Yeah.
Come.
Your upper-classman's offering to play with you.

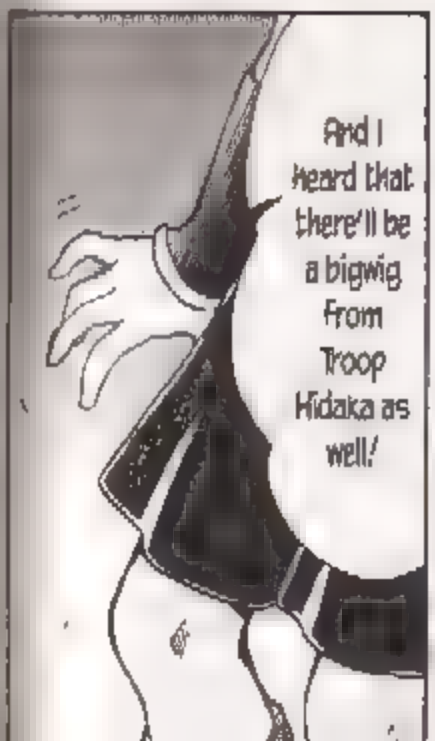
Medical
All done!
It's much better than I expected!
stomp
These foot-falls...
stomp
They were fractured!!
Don't you lie to the doctor!
Of course it is! I told you they were just bruised!
What is it with you!? You have an "Issa sensor" or something!?
I'm not in the Analysis Division of the Intelligence Corps for nothing!
slam
clatter
There you are!
Kazuma-san!!


There's a rumor going around that you're the captain delegate for the upcoming exhibition tournament...!!
But never mind that, Kazuma-san! Have you heard!?

I'd heard that it's going to be quite a roster this year.
prick

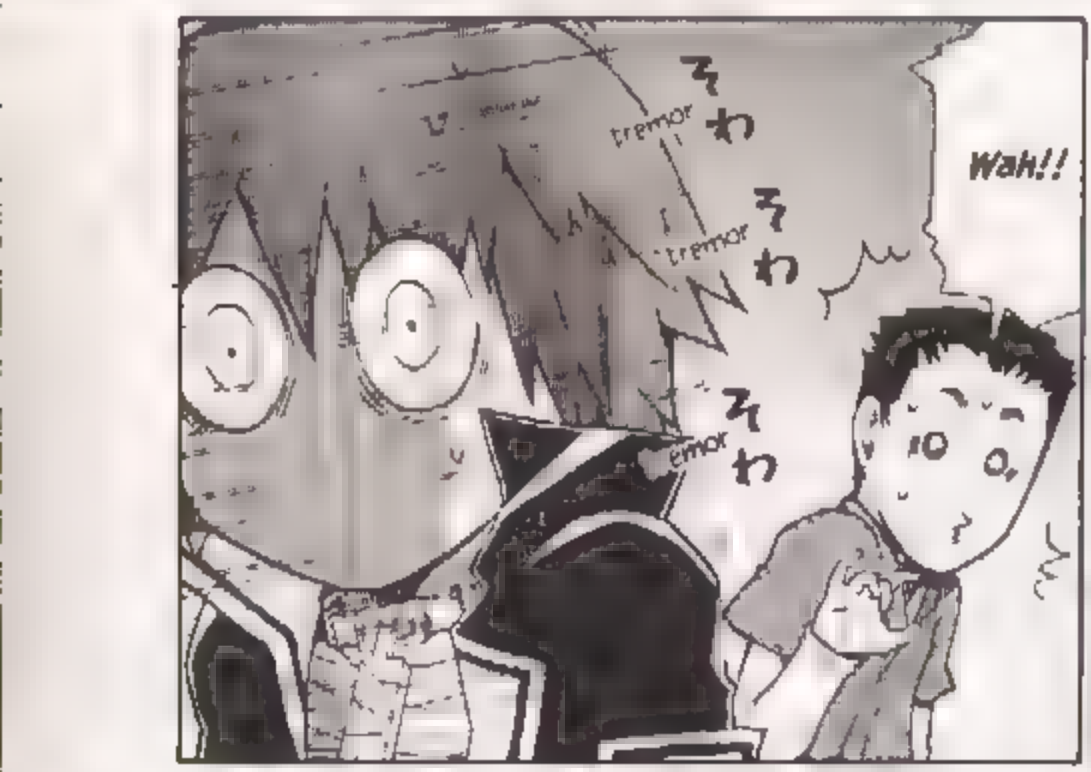
I... I see... I was thinking about watching from the stands.

I ain't entering!!
How should I know!!?
How come everyone knows except me!!?
I-I'm so sorry! Maybe cuz I'm in the Intelligence Corps?
Hun?!


And I heard that there'll be a bigwig from Troop Hidaka as well!

It's so rare for veterans and other people with real skills to participate.
Yeah!! There's a rumor that a real big shot from Squad One will be competing!
Quite a roster?
tremor

Troop Hidaka is mainly made up of spellcasters. They're the most mysterious troop of all.
They hardly ever enter the tournament...
...which is why everyone is buzzing with excitement!


tremor
tremor
tremor
Wah!!

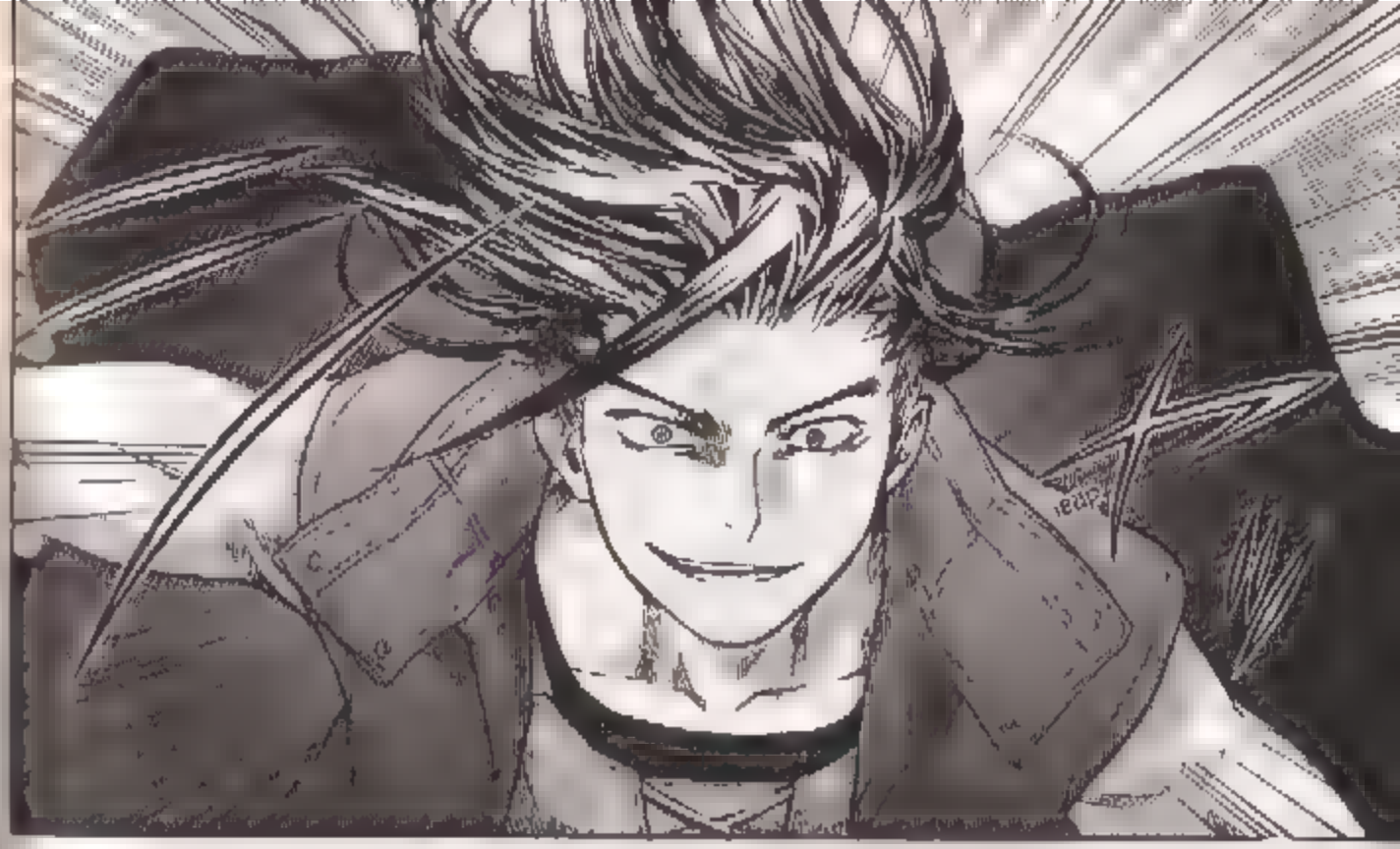
I also thought it was because of the rumor that the Squad Zero captain was entering, but...

K-Kazuma-san! The end of your bandage is showing!
dash
I haven't been asked to enter, OK!!

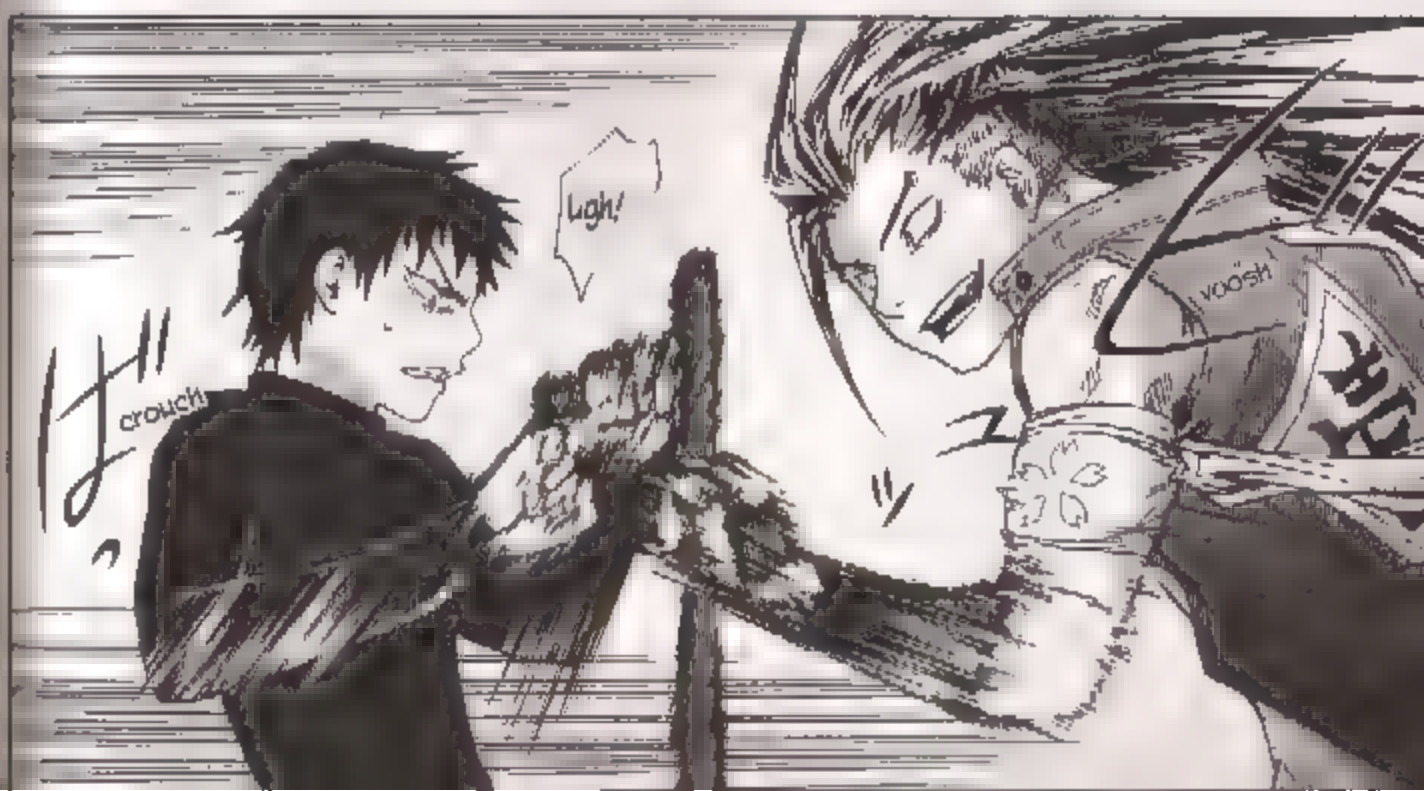
Shut up! I don't know nothing!!
K-Kazuma-san, you're scaring me.
spit

snatch
thump
thump
swish
swish
swish
swish

...thock
whoosh
klak
Akira-san... if you're just going to toy with me,
I've got places to be.
mutter
mutter



!!


ugh!
crouch
vOOSH

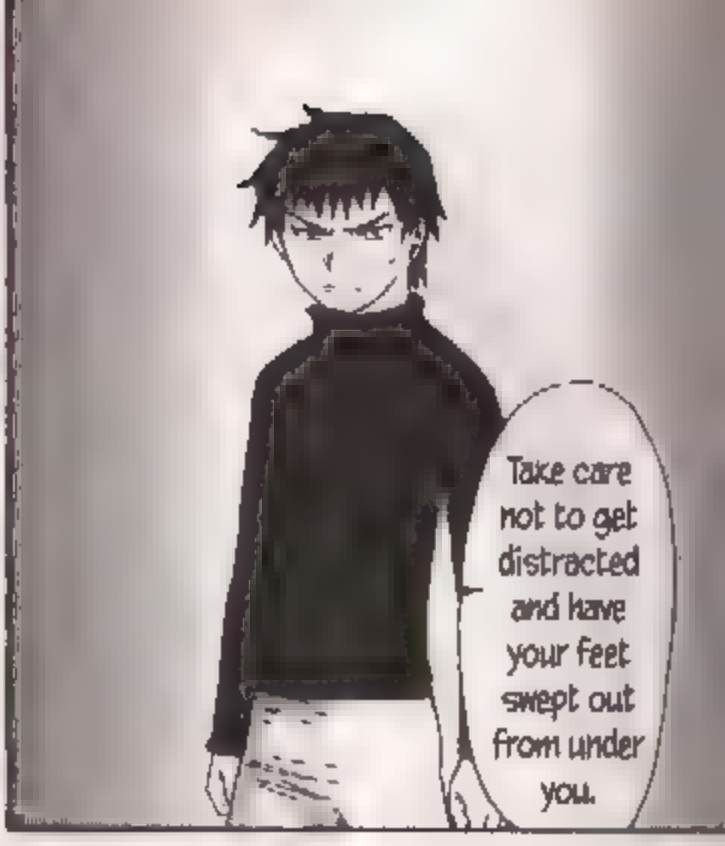
whirl
VOOSH

slash
yank
tinwack

7"
7"
7"
clench-stra
7"
mutter
mutter
H"
bustle
H"
bustle
H"
bustle
Is it true?
There's a rumor you might be entering the tour-nament...

Sakuraba-san's looking forward to it, you know.
7"
strain
7"
So what?
And what if it were?
7"
7" strain
7"
I wonder why... Sakuraba-san's been obsessed with you ever since you left Squad One.
strain 7" 7"
7"
Especially seeing how you've so adamantly refused in the past.
shove
How should I know?
.....
7" 7"

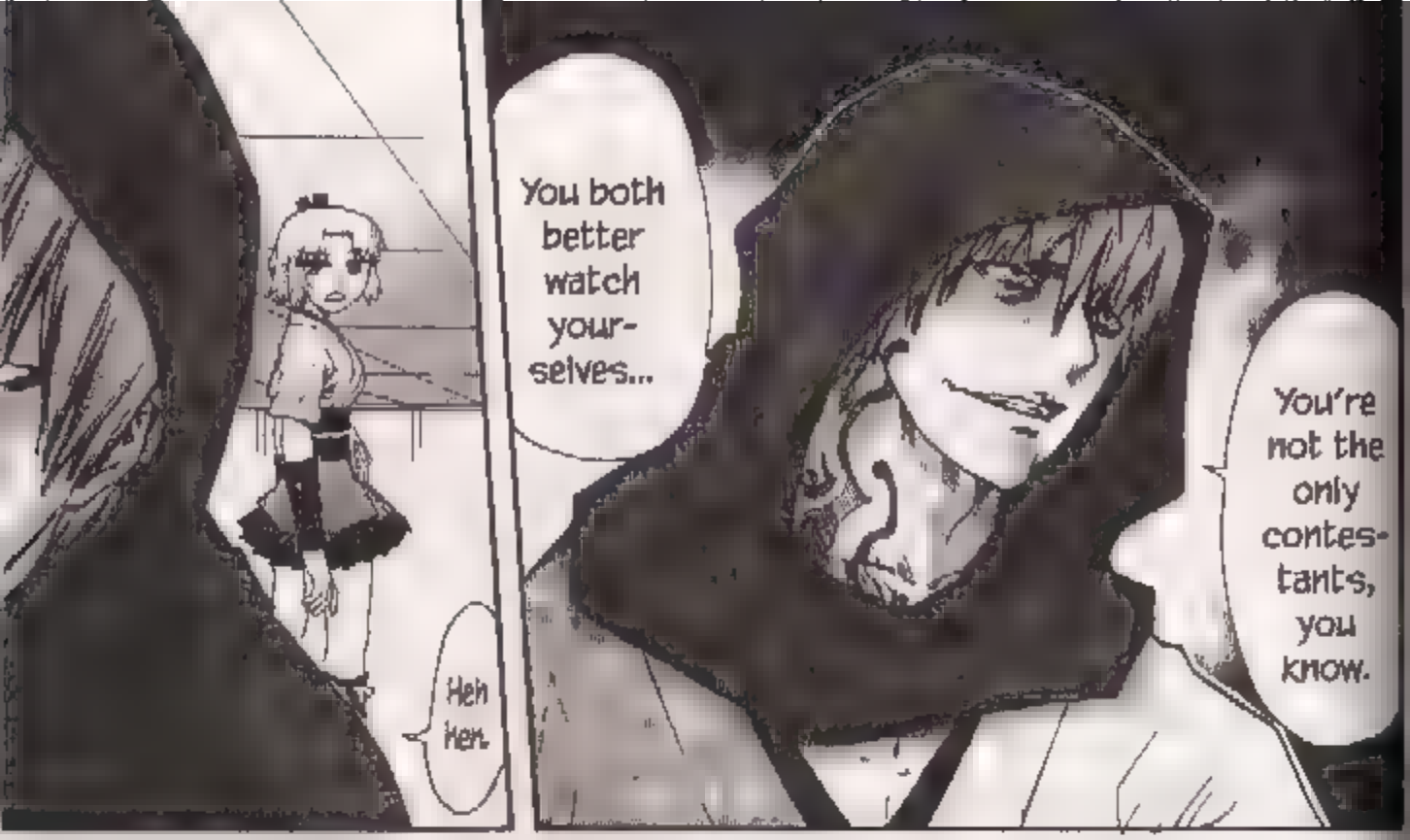
I'm sure if I flatten you in the tournament, even "the top" will take note.
Can the attitude, runt.
I'm gonna make it to the finals.
And the winner has a chance to be promoted.
leap

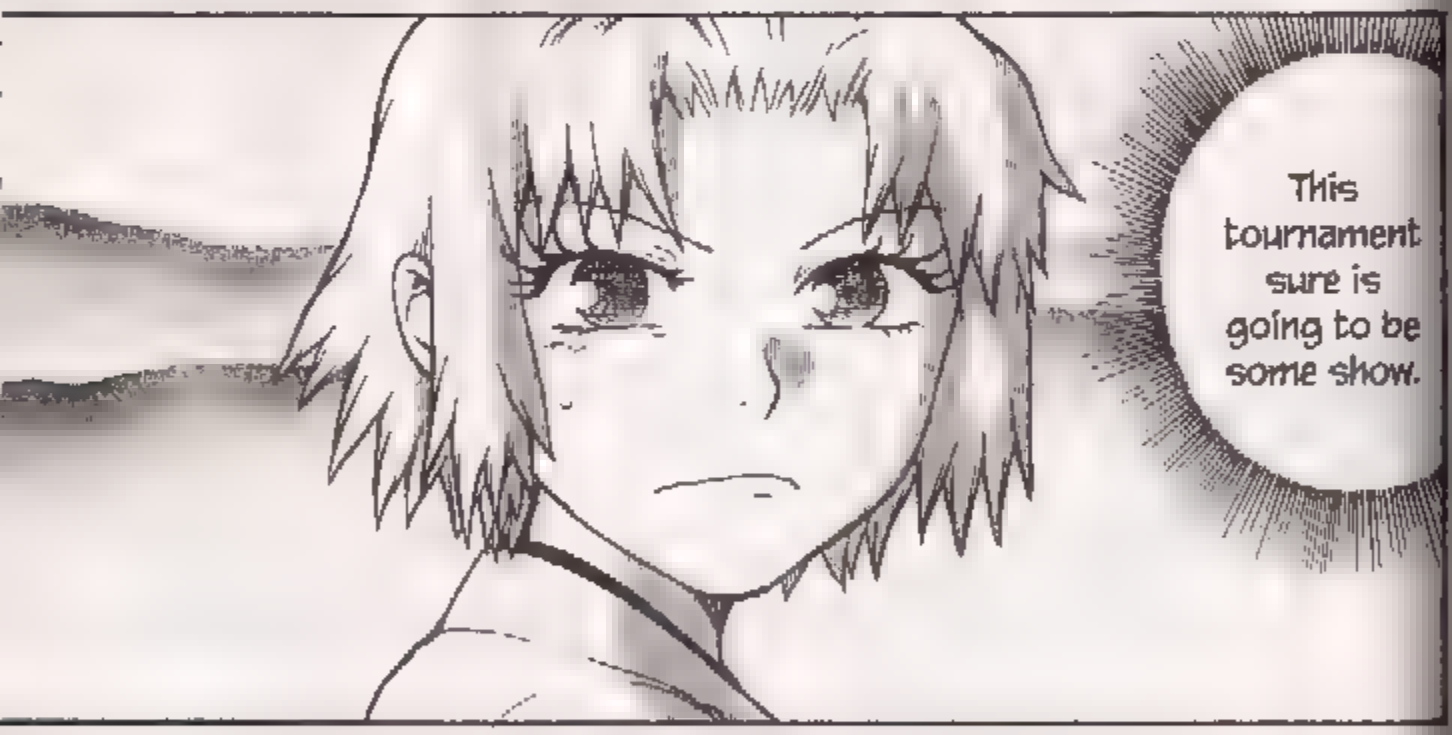

Take care not to get distracted and have your feet swept out from under you.

I guess those rumors that Akira of Squad One was entering the tournament were true.
But what an amazing show of power...
mutter
mutter
Feh, that's it...?

Talk about show-offs.
Heh.

can I really enter too...?
If the likes of them are entering...

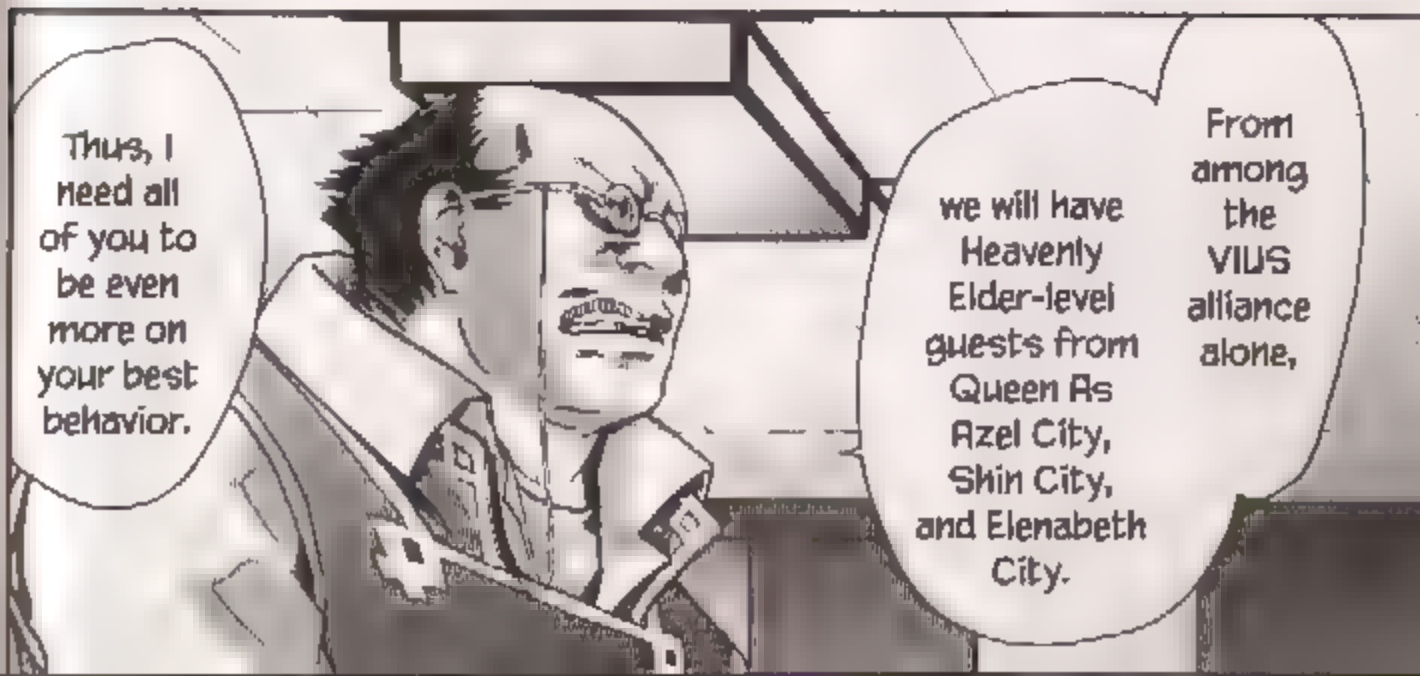

You both better watch your-selves...
You're not the only contes-tants, you know.
Heh heh.


This tournament sure is going to be some show.

Conference Room Four

I think you are all aware of the various rumors that are flying about.
In regard to the exhibition tournament coming up in ten days...

Perhaps that is what has gotten everyone all astir.
Unlike in past years, we will also be inviting numerous dignitaries this time.

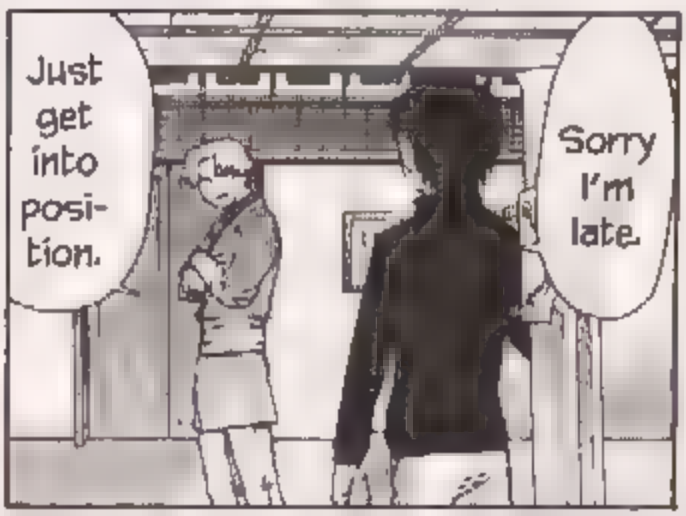

Thus, I need all of you to be even more on your best behavior.
we will have Heavenly Elder-level guests from Queen As Azel City, Shin City, and Elenabeth City.
From among the VIUS alliance alone,

Yes, sir!
For our sister VIUS city guests, I'd like Ino'o-kun, Myōjin-kun, Madoka-kun, and Nibu-kun.
Yes, sir!
Sakuraba-kun, Aoi-kun, you two will be the welcoming committee for our foreign dignitaries.
it has been decided that the Elder Grand Master shall attend From VIUS Central.
And of greatest importance...
And he is showing great interest in learning about Mikuni's current state of affairs.
It will be his first visit in twelve years.

What is it, Sakuraba-kun?
Elder Vice-Director?
Yes, sir!
Heed well and serve with dignity!
No disgraceful conduct will be tolerated!
Especially in terms of the captain delegate. It's always been kept even more secret than the rest, and yet this year it was leaked first.
I am rather concerned about the leakage of information with regard to the candidates.
I did have some misgivings myself, but...
Mmm...
May I have your thoughts on the matter?
I can't help but feel someone had a direct hand in this.

I shall personally inquire into the matter, so you all devote yourselves to the event day itself.
once decided, it is not so simple a thing to change.
Yes, sir!
I hope it stays just misgivings...
Encourage each squad captain to persuade all of them to participate!!
We've gathered skilled warriors this year.
Well then, here are the candidate rosters.

!

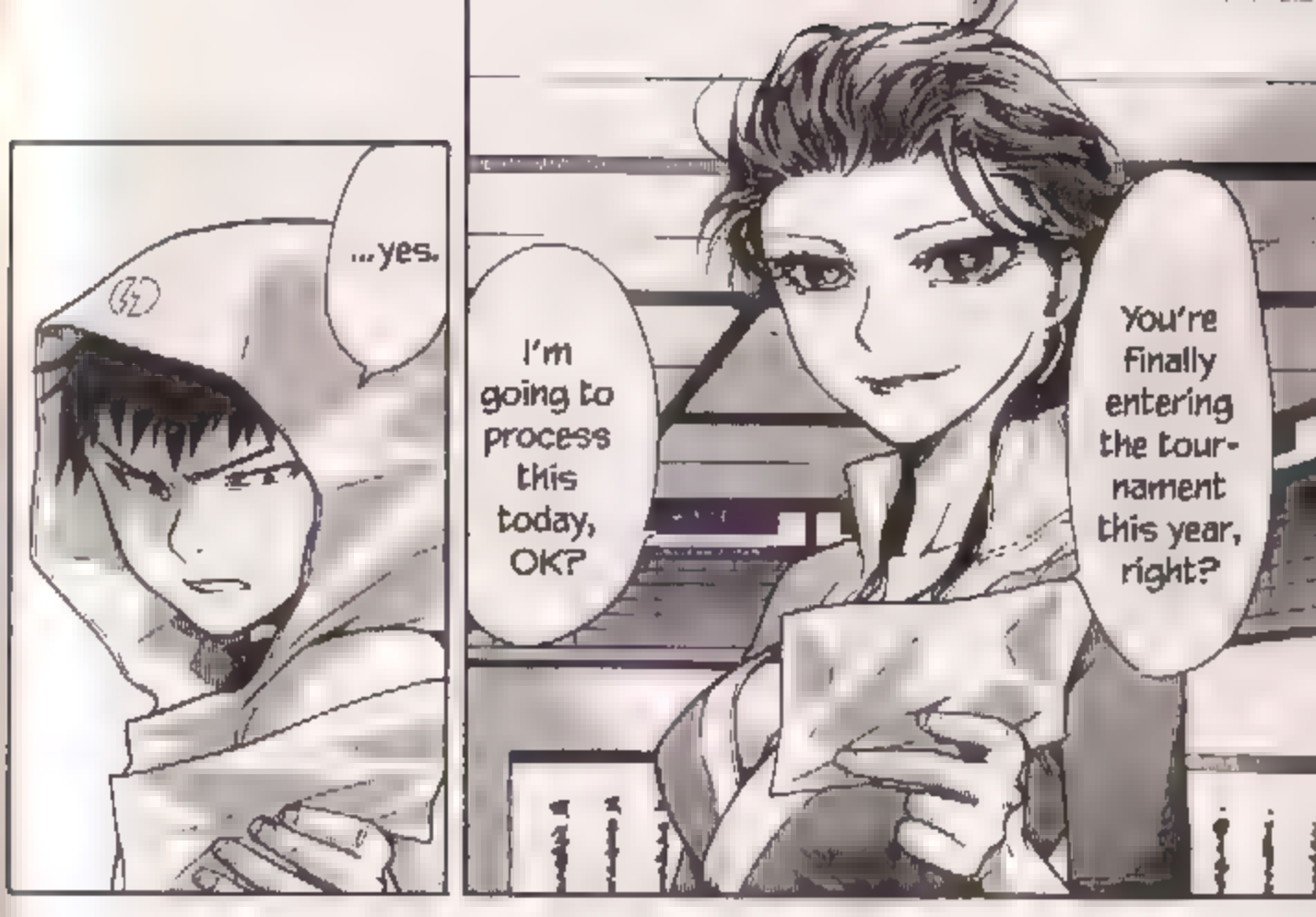

Just get into position.
Sorry I'm late.

Yeah, right.
It's nothing.
Who and what?

...

Hey...
what's up with *that*?

...huh.
There you are, Masamune.
"This is"?
Then what about "him" or "her"?
...
This is...
How unusual for you to bear evidence.
from sparring in the training room.
Oh, by the way, Masamune, I've got a notice for you.
I'm ready to go.
Darn you, Akira...


...yes.
I'm going to process this today, OK?
You're finally entering the tournament this year, right?

There have been suspicions that he has some secret goings-on.
It's about Hibiki...

Roi-san.

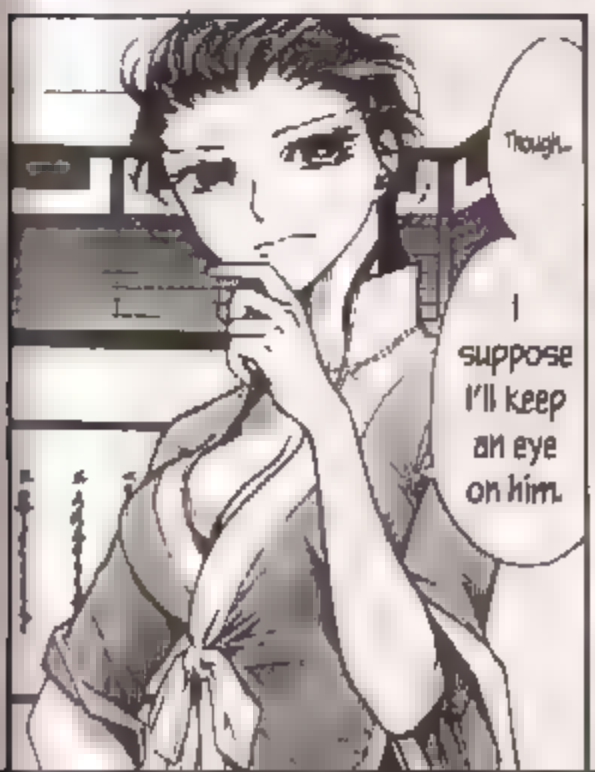
A few of us are worried.
But it could be something worse: subversive activity.
...although there is that, too...
Not the sparring...
Well, it is unusual for him to have returned with an injury.

Masa-
mune!
...
!
.....
...hiding
anything
from me,
are you?
You
aren't...

Lots.

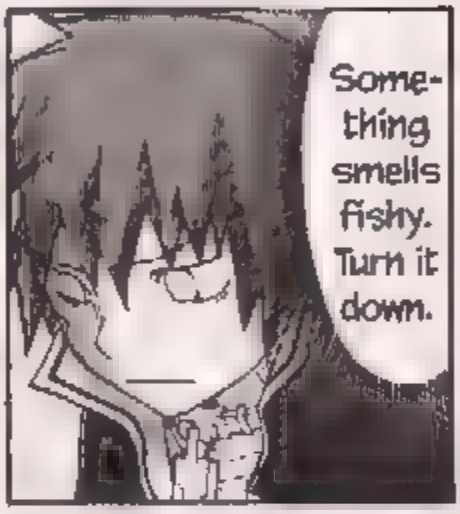
Yeah, same old, same old.

...

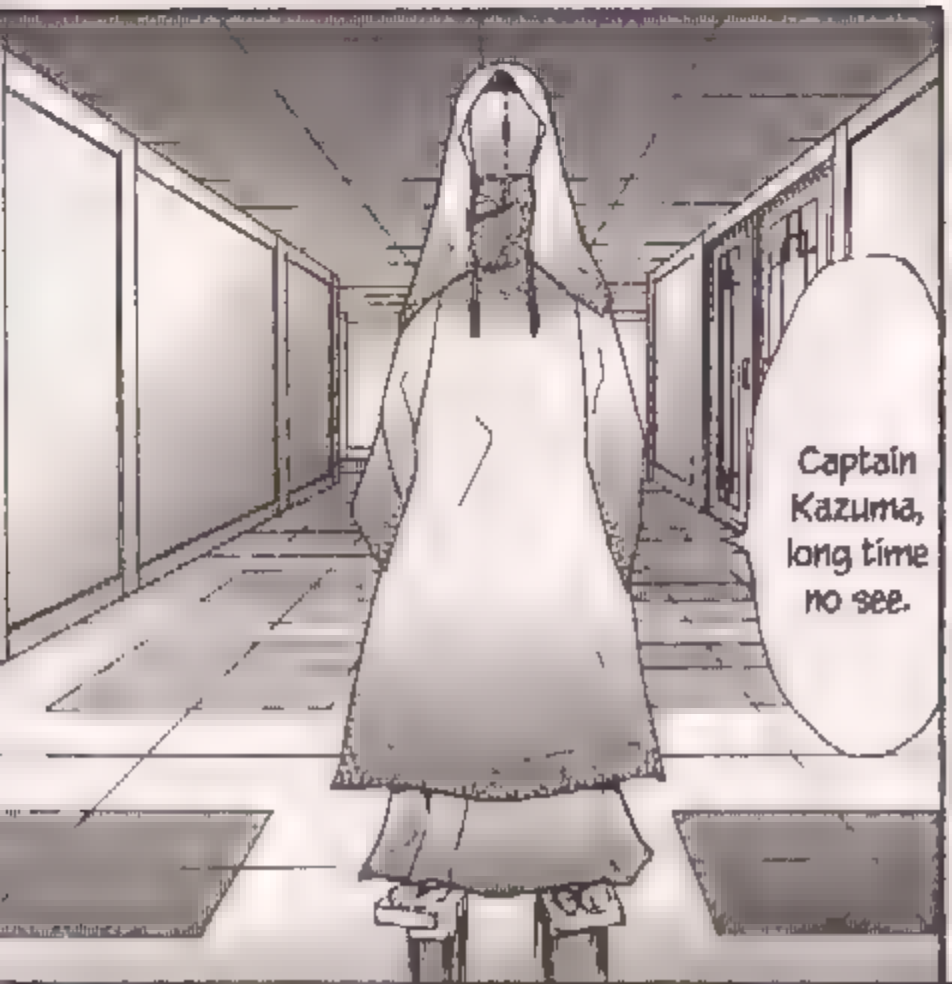

Though...
I suppose I'll keep an eye on him.

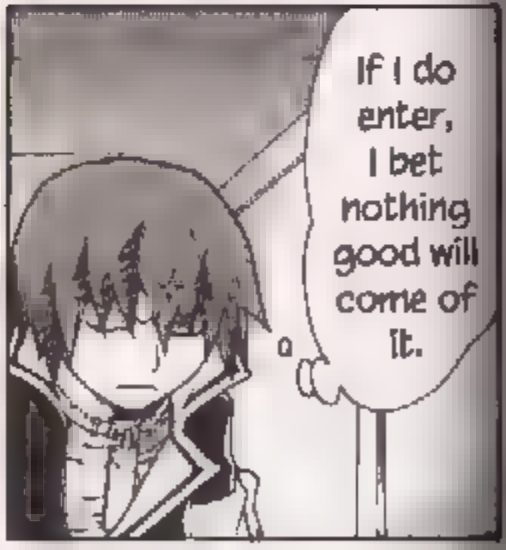
Roi-san...!
He's no longer a child. I can't keep interfering.

You didn't have to tell me that..

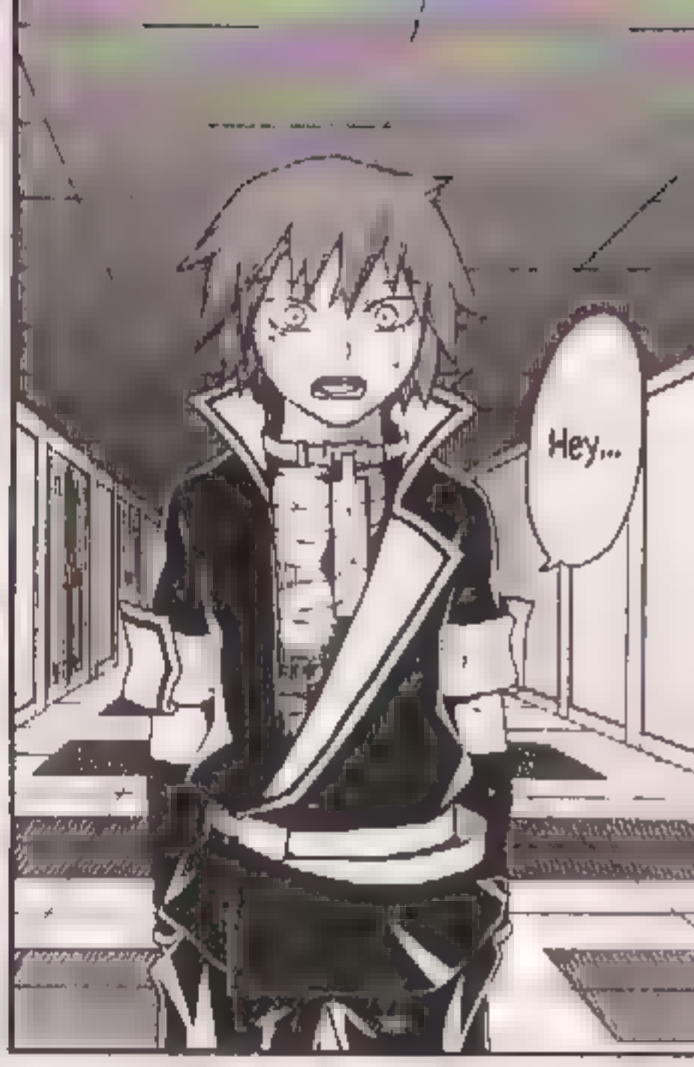

Something smells fishy. Turn it down.

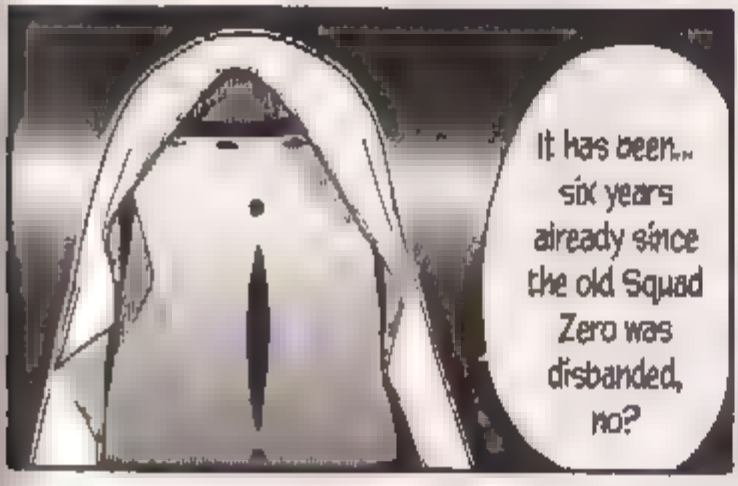
Sheesh, I can't believe them...
...discussing and even deciding things without me.


Captain Kazuma, long time no see.


If I do enter, I bet nothing good will come of it.

I have been hearing rumors about the new Squad Zero.
What kind of rumors?


Hey...

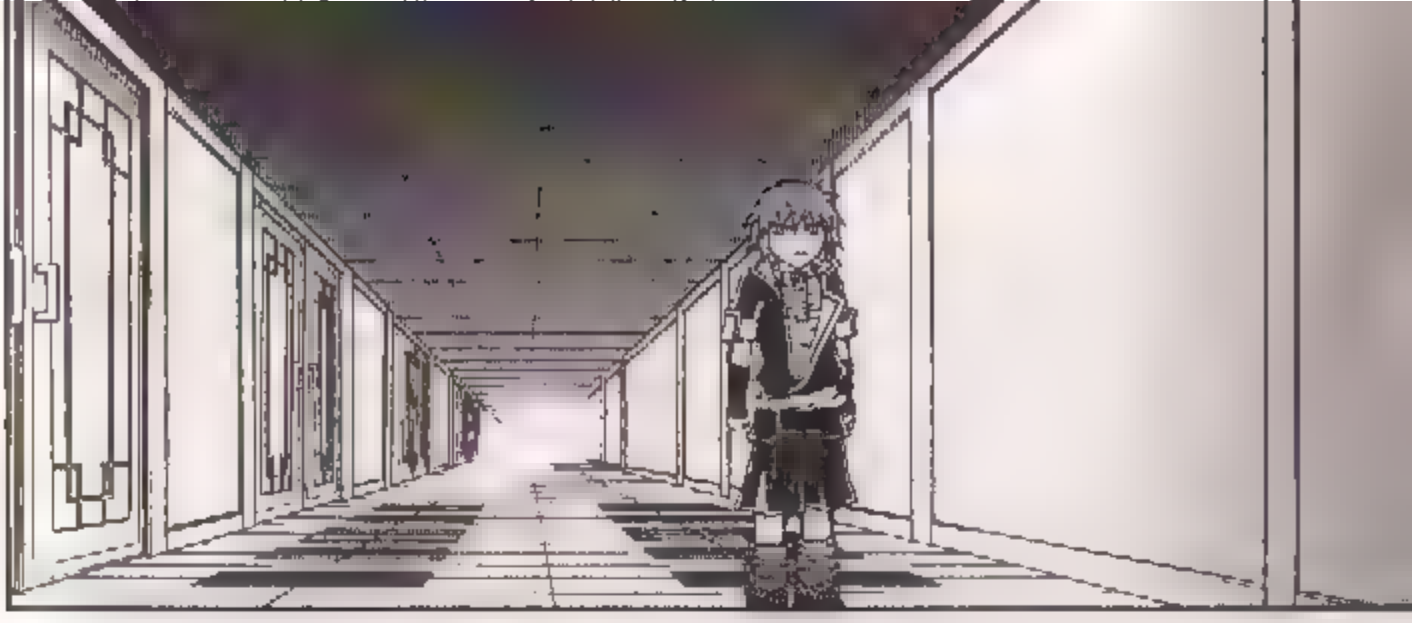

It has been... six years already since the old Squad Zero was disbanded, no?

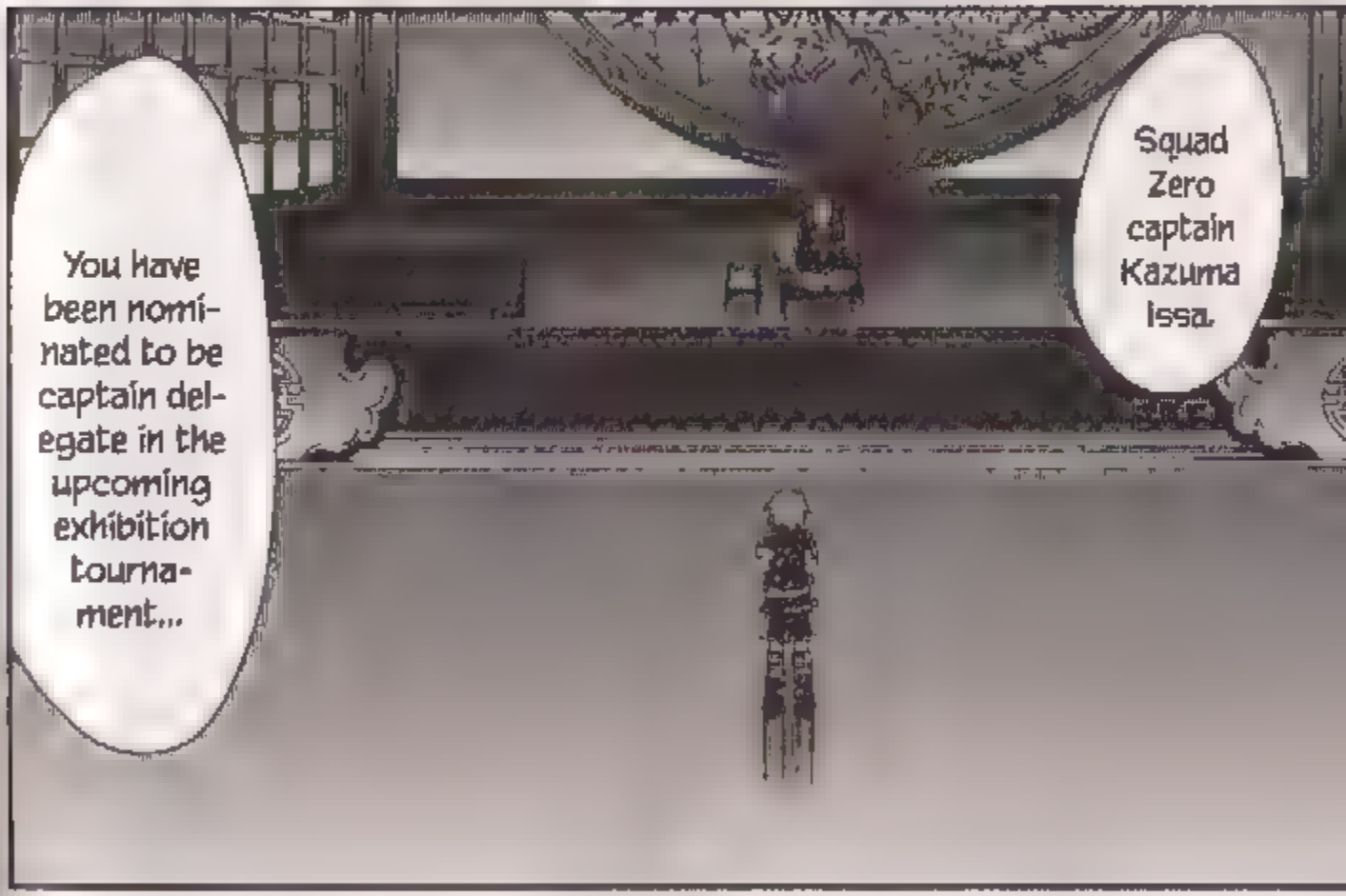
It wasn't your fault.

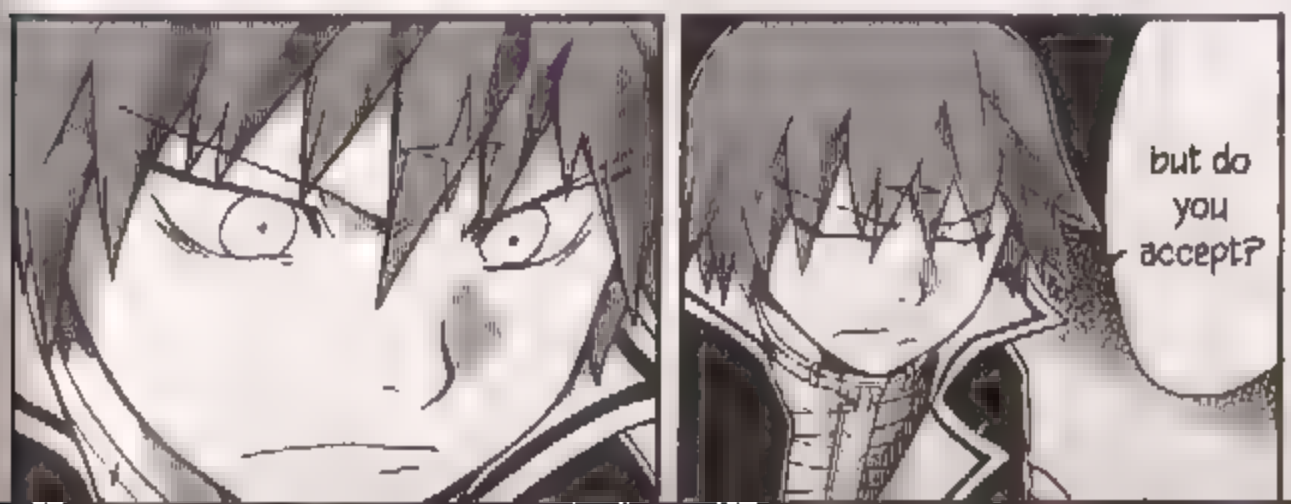
...I have felt keenly,
every single day since then, my inexperience...
that prevented me from stopping you that day.

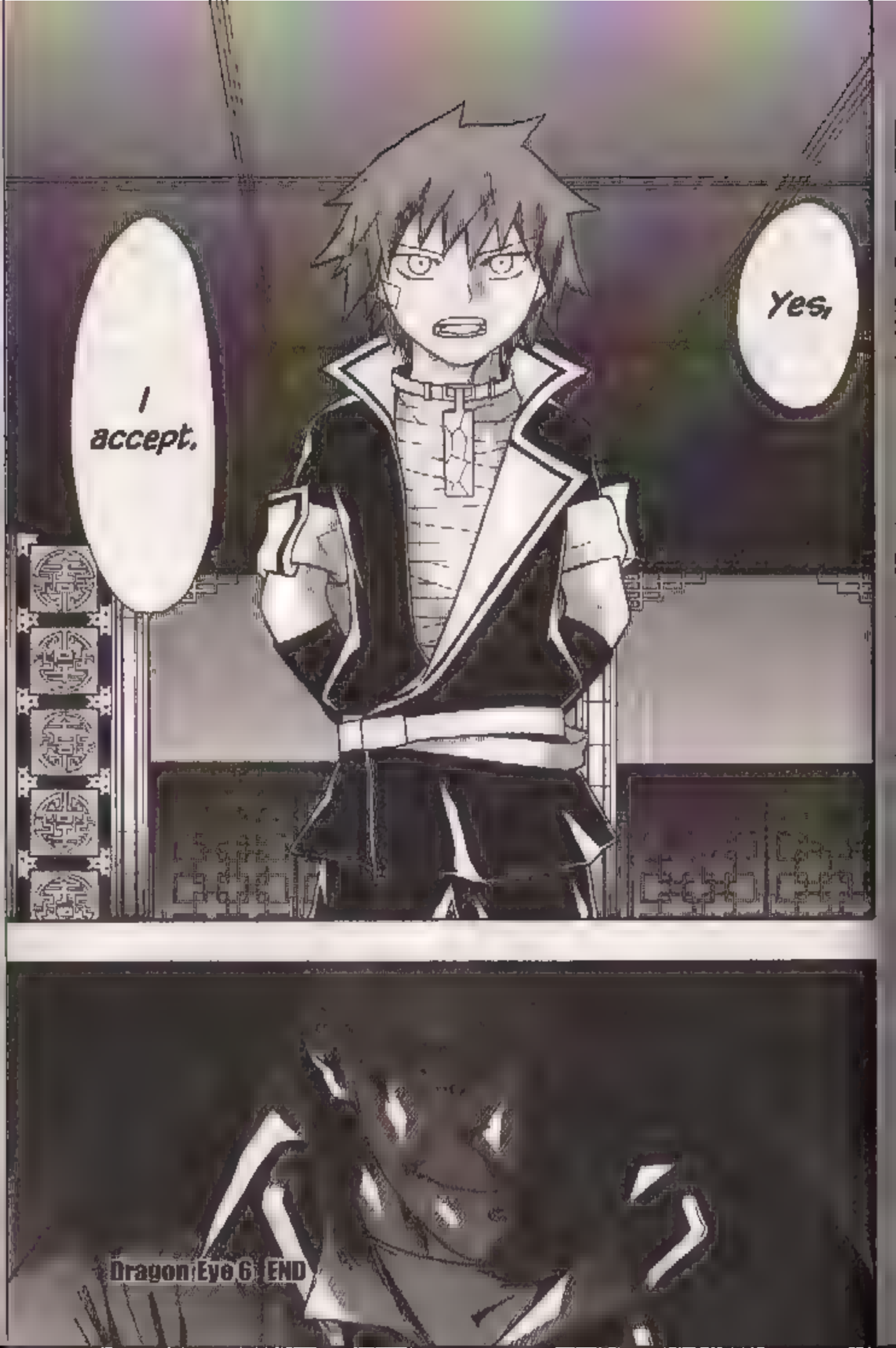
But my pride will not let me go...
For I had not the power to do it.

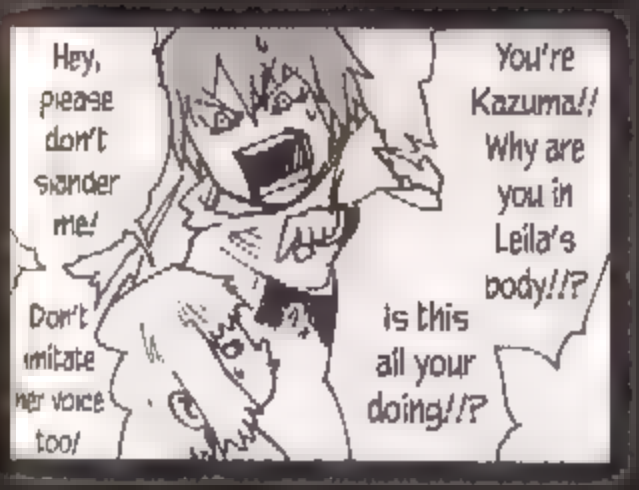
Upon my pride, I swear to stop you this time.
I... will partici-pate as well.
I have heard that you will be entering the tour-nament.
I look forward to facing you.
There ought to be...
...more warriors who are better than you in this city.

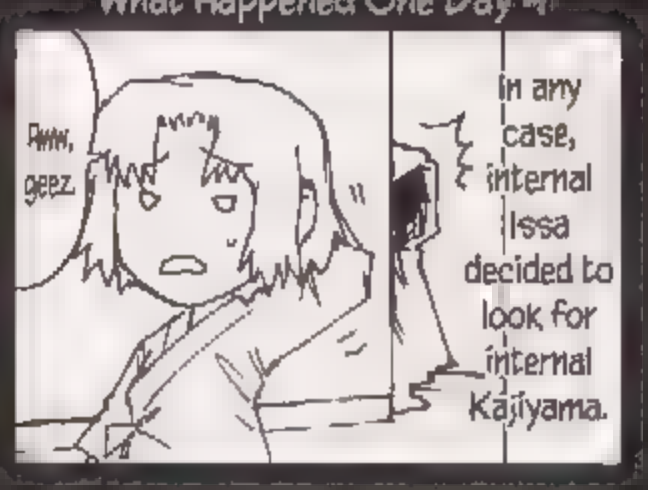


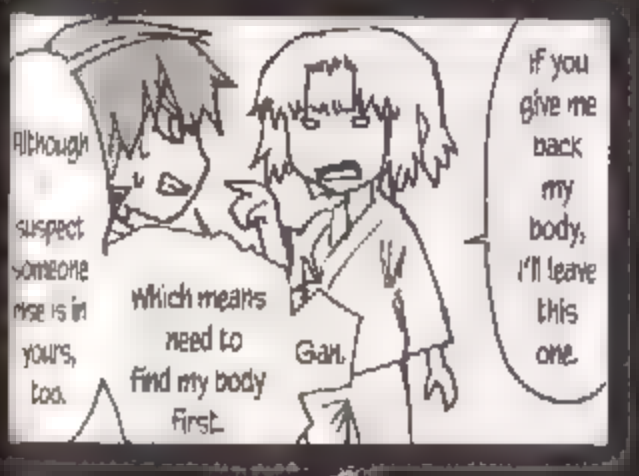

You have been nominated to be captain delegate in the upcoming exhibition tournament...
Squad Zero captain Kazuma Issa.


but do you accept?


I accept.
Yes.
Dragon Eye 6 END


Hey, please don't slander me!
You're Kazuma!! Why are you in Leila's body!!?
Don't imitate her voice too!
Is this all your doing!!?


Awww, geez.
In any case, internal Issa decided to look for internal Kajiyama.


Although I suspect someone else is in yours, too.
Which means I need to find my body first.
Gah.
If you give me back my body, I'll leave this one.

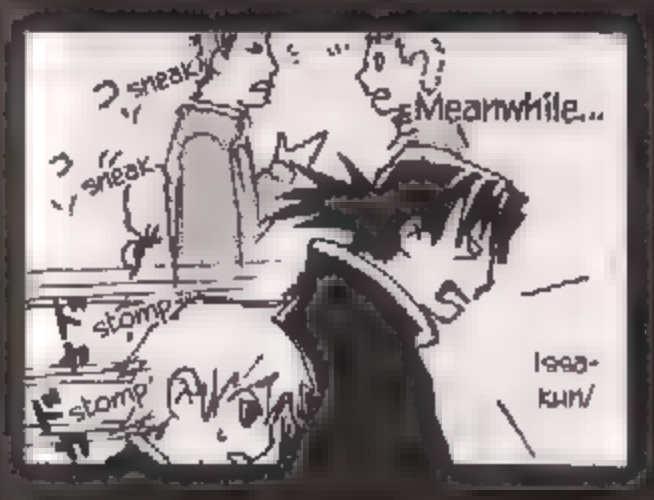
Wah!
Th-that voice...
Oh, good!! Leila, help me!!

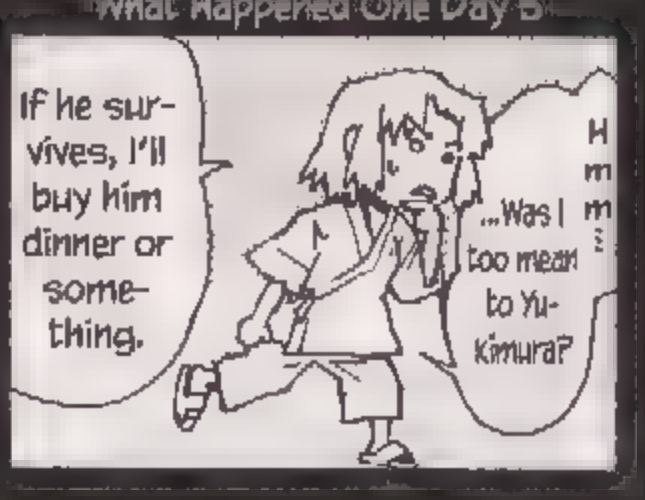
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
Hey, Yukimura's body, are you out there?!

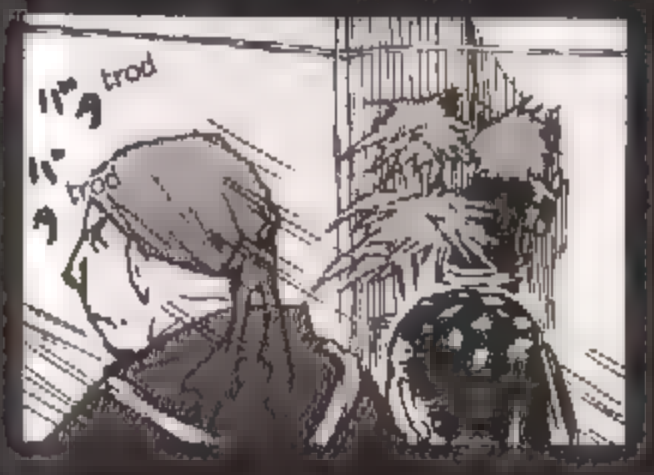
It's me, Sôsei.
Please listen without getting frightened

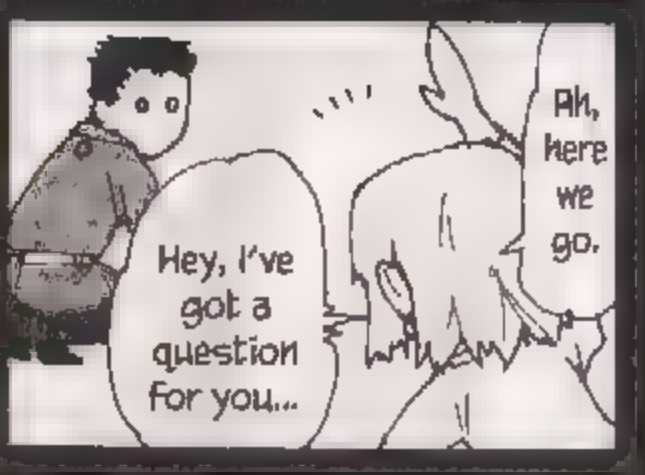
Crack
Crack
Have you seen the Captain?
He went that way.

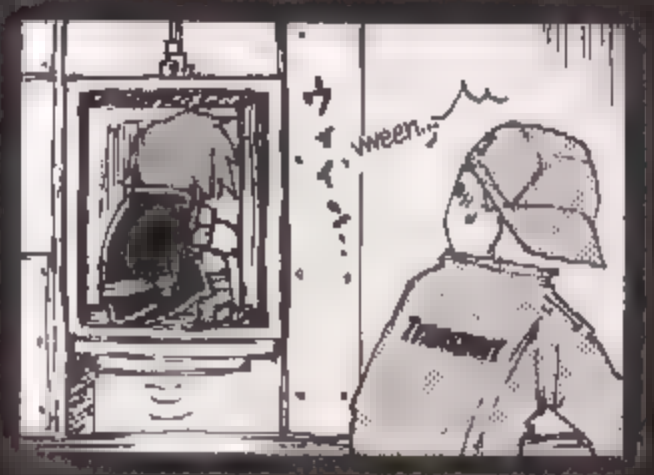
Leila?
Wa-ha ha ha ha ha ha!


sneak
sneak
Meanwhile...
stomp
stomp
Isea-kun!

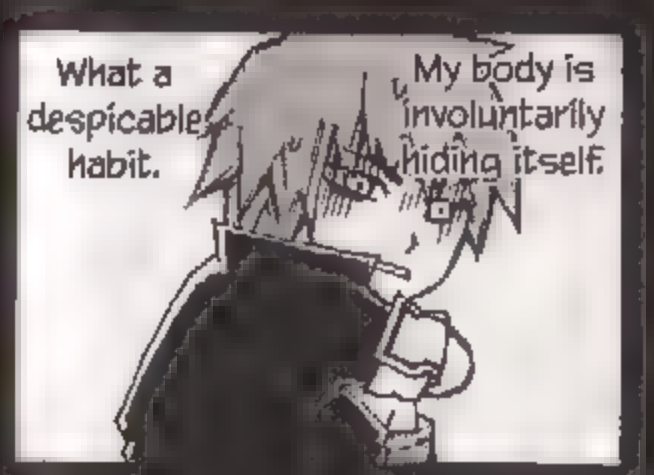

If he survives, I'll buy him dinner or something.
...Was I too mean to Yu-kimura?
Hmm

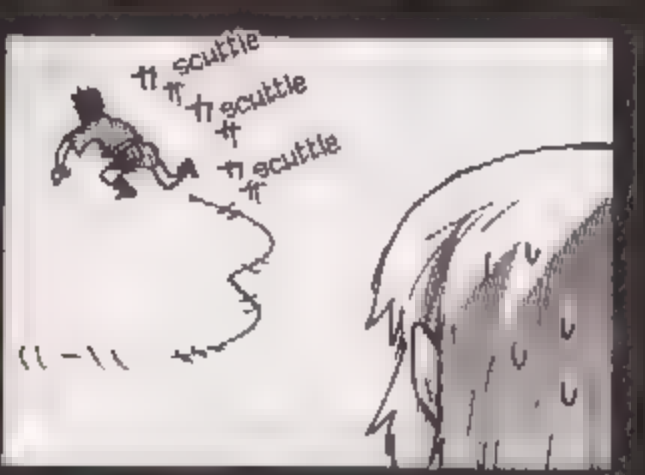

trod
trod


Hey, I've got a question for you...
Ah, here we go.


vween...

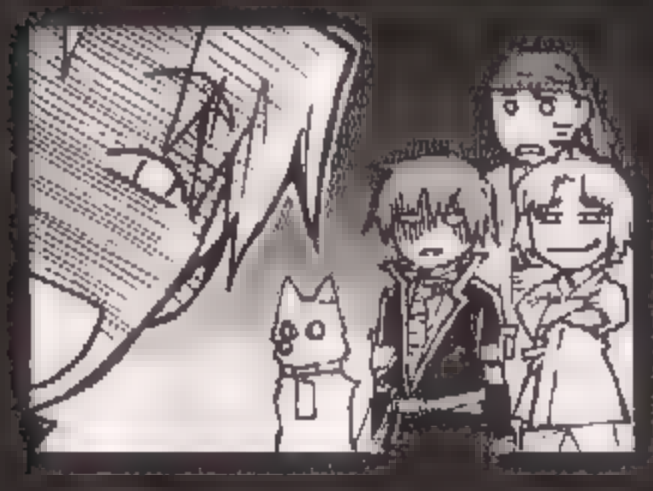
Woof.
Hiya...


What a despicable habit.
My body is involuntarily hiding itself.


scuttle
scuttle
scuttle

I woke up like this.
I'm Hyûga Rokurô.

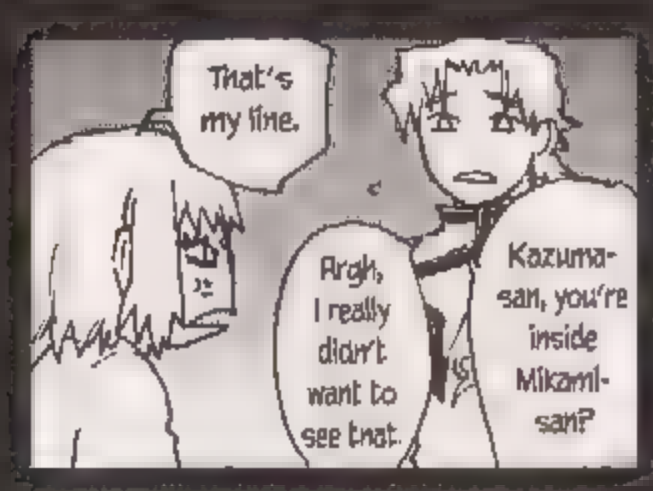
Ha ha.
Just kid-ding!



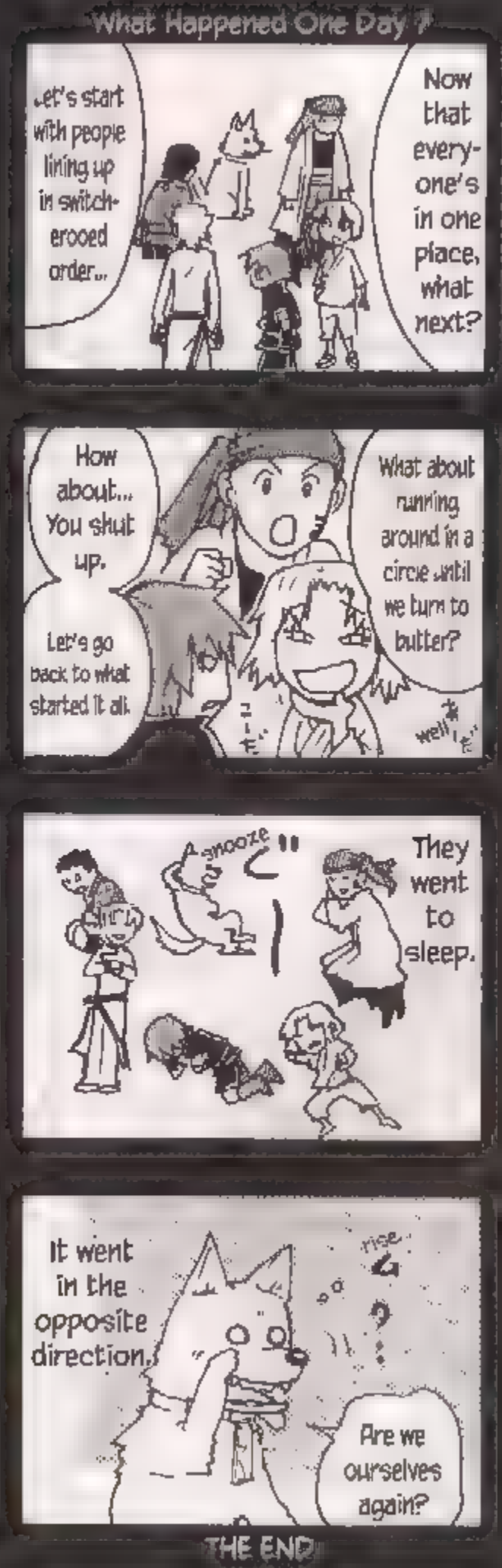
but I suddenly feel like I'm stronger.
I don't know why,

Watch your tone! You're breaking character.
You startled me! H-how long have you...
How long have you been watching me?!!
Now hand that body over, Rokurô.

Ha-ya!
slash-slash
kash-ing!


That's my line.
Argh, I really didn't want to see that.
Kazuma-san, you're inside Mikami-san?

I'm not going to kill you.
Don't worry.


What Happened One Day ?
Let's start with people lining up in switch-erooed order...
Now that every-one's in one place, what next?
How about... You shut up.
Let's go back to what started it all.
What about running around in a circle until we turn to butter?
Well, I'm...
snooze
They went to sleep.
It went in the opposite direction.
rise
Are we ourselves again?
THE END

To everybody who bought Volume 6, thank you very much!
It's Fujiyama here.
Recently, for some unknown reason, I've been in a lot of pain.
But both machinery and human bodies will fall into disrepair if they're not maintained. So I've been trying to take care of myself!

Maintenance Checklist
- Early bedtime: Ongoing battle. Still not achieved.
- Saké: Yet another health benefit of drinking has been proven! But I'll cut back anyway.
- Meals... I'd like to cook my own meals at least seven days out of each month, but it still has not happened.

So vexing.

Thanks

Baba Atsushi
(author of *Xenosaga* manga)

My staff
(in alphabetical order)

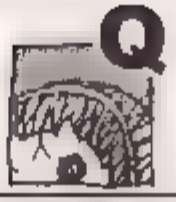
Dantani Ai

Kamimura

Uemura Erika

Ueda Satomi

Ah, nice question (whisper whisper)! Let me refer to the Author's Notes that I have here for the answer. "Leila's blade... 'Shiraume-maru' ['White Plum Boy'], work of Yoroku Kagome. Was bestowed upon her by her teacher Shimon. Long ago, around the time he founded the Sacred Blade, Shimon School, Shimon commissioned swordsmith Kagome to forge it. Further details unknown."



I enjoy reading *Dragon Eye* every month. My question is: Iesa and Hibiki's weapons have names, but what about Leila and Sōsei's blades? And if so, who named them, and what is the origin of the names?
Iijima Ken-sa

Hiya! As always, we got tons of questions, so I'm real happy! However, I have to do it in secret this time. So please keep your voices down, OK? Here we go (whisper whisper).

It's really eating at me, but there's that Igunido that's in the shape of a dog!! Does that mean that Igunido can change forms? Or did it always look like that? Please tell me!! Don't-know-where-to-start...san.

"Yukimura's blade... 'Muesasabi' ['Nightglider']. Was originally a single blade, but Yukimura himself later commissioned a duplicate to make them twin blades. Is an heirloom of his father's, who had been a well-known swordsman."
That's all we seem to know right now. They both seem to be of pretty high quality. Unlike my much-nicked Diamond Sacred Steel...!!
(whisper whisper)

There you are! I finally found you, Kazuma-san!! What are you doing in such a dark, cramped space?!!

tramp tramp tramp

Mmm... I've got a bad feeling about this...

Please tell me more about Natsumi★ chan. All the Mikuni women are great beauties, so I keep forgetting about her.
Oda-san

Hey, don't shout!! (whisper whisper) Igunido are classified information, so I can't really tell you... but from what I know, I believe he was always that way? I feel like there are all kinds.

Then let me prove to you how helpful my vast knowledge can be!! What's this... it's like this next query was sent in with me in mind!! Well, here's my data, as proud Fan Club Member Number 18!! *Having suddenly rocketed to superstardom through her role in the hit drama *The Little Devils Series*, Natsumi ★ is a much-adored fashion idol to little girls, and she lives right here in Mikuni City. The songs released by this singing and fighting little devil Emilin are all chart-topping hits, and related merchandise is perpetually sold out...*

H-how could you!!

But it's such a pain when you join in.

You're so mean. I told you I'd support you for the next Q&A session!

Shoot, he tracked me down... I was trying so hard to hide from him...

Kajiyama-san mentioned he was from a large family, but how many siblings does he have? Sala-san

(Don't tell me you don't know, Kazuma-san!) Yes, yes... here we go. There is technically no minimum or maximum age limit to VIUS membership. Merely "as long as you can fulfill the duties of a warrior," so it seems the average is to start applying around 13 years old. By the way, I successfully enlisted when I was 14!

OK, assistant! You answer this one!

How young can one apply to take the VIUS enlistment examination? Also, is there a retirement age? Saeki Nozomi-san

All right, that's enough!

In Mikuni, are there any police-like jobs other than the VIUS??

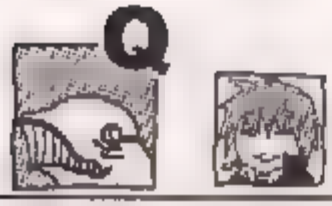
And for some reason, they've apparently all got different designs!?

Yes, sir. Click-click-click (acquiring data). Here it is. There are currently 18 Skyway vehicles in operation throughout Mikuni. Including those off-line for maintenance, 21.

All right! Assistant, look it up!!

How many Skyway vehicles are there in Mikuni? Taketomi Jin-san

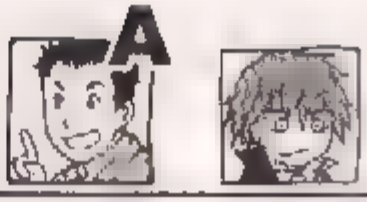
Yeah, I believe Kanikama has eight siblings. I think he's the third oldest? It's a huge family!



Does Hibiki-san have a thing for Aoi-san? ^^;

It bothers me so much I can't sleep at night. Also, I want to know what kind of woman is everyone's type! I-love-Hibiki-san

When one eats and runs, the Civil Defense officers are the ones who will chase you!



Yes, yes! In Mikuni City, the VIUS are troops that only respond to situations involving Dracules or the D Virus. All other incidents or crimes fall under the jurisdiction of the Civil Defense Unit. They correspond to your "police force."

Nice question! Actually, there is a separate police force. I'll let my assistant go into detail.

And incidents other than those involving Dracules? Are the VIUS employed for any and all incidents that occur in Mikuni?? Kitsune-san [Fox-san]

Why don't we all do it together?

Waah...

Hyûga, back off a bit, will you?

Unn! But as a Squad Zero member, I can't give way, either.

Mmm. I'm not giving up the assistant's seat even for you, Mikami-san!

(Wah! More trouble!)

Oh! There you are! Why didn't you let me know?!

stomp stomp stomp

Kazuma-san, we must answer more politely.

How should I know! Just sleep, will you!

Please give me the bios of all of the Squad Zero members. Also, who is the dumbest person and who is the smartest person who appeared in Volume 4? Nameko [Mushroom] Dracule-san

That's why I didn't want to do this together!

Grrr (strangle)

You mean not all violent like Leila?! Wa-ha ha.

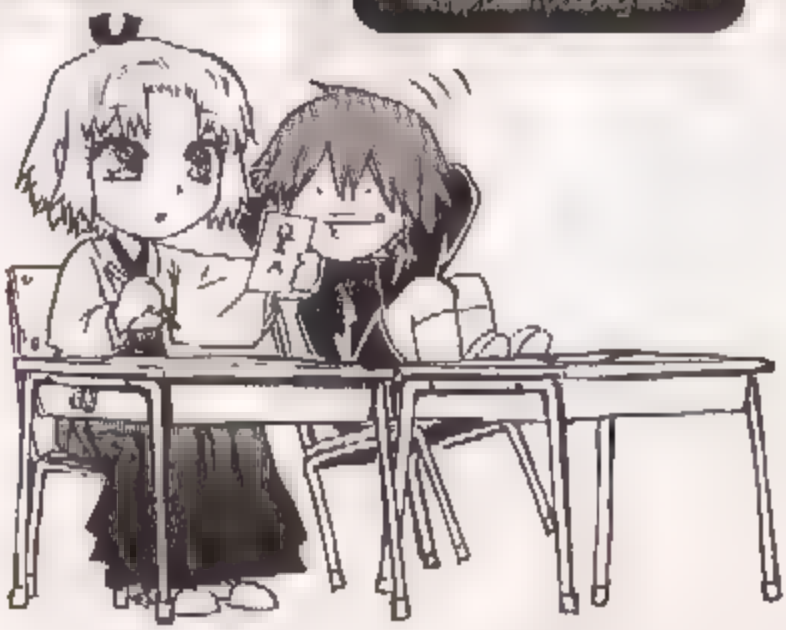
Oh! I know, I know! I like kind, generous, soft...

Wh-what, starting with me?! Mm... I like feminine women... I suppose?

Waah, it's getting mighty complicated! All right then, answer in order!!

Y-Yukimura-kun...

A
Whoops, we're out of space! Well then, see you next time!
I'm Hyūga Rokurō, 20 years old!!
Self-introduction? ...I'm Yukimura Sōsei, 17 years old.. my forte is memorization, I guess.
Huh? Oh, uh... I am Mikami Leila, 14 years old... my forte is shiritori word games and cleaning, I guess.
What?!!
Hey! Just introduce yourselves one by one!!
The dumbest has got to be you, Kazuma.
I think the smartest is Captain Roi..
K-Kazuma-san!!
That's quite a perious question. Of course, the dumbest one is Hyūga Rokurō...



Seeking all questions and concerns about Dragon Eye!

Seeking Correspondence!

*Furthermore, please be aware that all submissions including your personal information, will be handed over to the author, so send us your questions at your own risk.

What to submit

Please send us, in addition to your question(s), your address, name (and a pen name, if you have one), age, school year (or type of work), and phone number or e-mail address. If your submission is printed, we will send you a small present.

Address to:

112-8001 Tokyo City Bunkyō District Otowa 2-12-21 Kōdansha Monthly Shōnen Sirius Attn. "*Dragon Eye* Q&A Corner"

Email:

sirius@kodansha.co.jp

(If you are e-mailing us your question(s), please write the Q&A corner name in the subject line)

TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Troop designation symbols, various pages

Most VIUS members wear their troop designations somewhere on their uniforms, and equipment and objects sometimes bear stamps as well. For example, on page 1, the iron-on patch on Leila's right shoulder has the character for zero emblazoned on it, and the back of Issa's jacket reads "Squad Zero in the house." On pages 148-149, one veil depicts the older way of writing the number nine, while two in the center (along the page fold) depict the number eight and three on the far left depict the number seven.

She might have grown horns, page 138

In Japan, saying that someone has "grown horns" means they're in a rage. The "horns" refer to the horns that Oni ogres sport—ogres, of course, being known for their fearsome tempers.

Dried squid, page 150

A common pub appetizer, *surume* are squid or cuttlefish that are gutted, dried, boiled (with or without seasoning), pressed flat, and then dried once more. Sold either whole, as seen here hanging from Issa's mouth, or pre-shredded into strips, they are a chewy, leathery snack that exercises one's jaw.

"You're being... awfully familiar," page 154

Sôsei bristles because Issa has suddenly called him by his first name, rather than his last, as Issa always has before. In Japan, the way in which you address someone—by first or last name, or with or without honorifics, is often a sign of how close you are to them. It's considered to be a sign of unusual intimacy to refer to someone by their first name, without honorifics. Issa often shows his rebellious temperament by seldom using honorifics, even with his fellow captains, and tends to address those he's particularly close to by first name only.

Akira's armband, page 160

The flower symbol on Akira's armband is a pictorial depiction of the sakura or cherry blossom. It is probably because his squad captain is Sakuraba, whose name is made up of the *kanji* for "cherry blossom" and "yard."

Emilin, page 195

"Emilin" is the name of the little devil character the idol Natsumi plays on TV. The popularity of this character, and the series it appears in, helped launch her career.

Shiritori, page 197

A popular children's word game and educational tool where two or more players must go around (in order) in a circle saying a word that begins with the same syllable the previous person's word ended in. For example, "*miso*" could be followed with "*Sôsei.*" The name *Shiritori* literally means "take the bottom," since Japanese is traditionally written vertically. The game ends when someone either repeats a word or uses a word ending in the syllable "*n*" or "*un,*" because there are no words that begin with that syllable. Some play with additional rules such as no proper nouns, no foreign words, or the use of only words of a certain genre or a certain number of syllables.

DRAGON EYE

6

Kaiji Furuya

Ballantine Books

Includes special extras after the story!

U.S.A. $10.95 CANADA $12.50

ISBN 978-0-345-50521-7 GRAPHIC NOVEL

EAN 9 780345 505217 51095

RATING T AGES 13+

DEL REY KODANSHA

www.delreymanga.com